

Zion Chapel COCHUSA
2023 Vacation Bible School
Adult Class

Discovering Your Identity "In Christ"
Theme Scripture: Matthew 16:13-17

Discovering Your Identity “In Christ”

Topics Covered This Week:

1. Introduction – Who Am I?
2. Who Is Jesus Christ?
3. Who Are We In Christ?
4. Does Christ Change Our Identity?
5. Embracing Our Identity In Christ “By Faith”
6. A Closer Look At God’s Love
7. Practical Application: Strengthening Our Identity In Christ
8. Practical Application: The New Believer’s Identity Journey
9. Reflections

Introduction

Who Am I?

Group Exercise:

- Please take a card and describe yourself in writing.
- Prepare to describe yourself to the larger group.
 - 15-minute time limit.

Introduction

Who Am I?

How does today's society struggle with the following identity elements:

- Gender
- Sexuality
- Labels
- Career
- Lifestyle
- Family

- Hobbies
- Dress
- Age
- Culture
- Relationships
- Friends

Introduction

Who Am I?

How does today's Christian struggle with the following identity elements:

- Legalism
- Cheap Grace
- Denominational Differences
- Rituals

- Performance for Blessings
- Doctrinal Differences
- False Teaching
- Tradition

Introduction

Who Am I?

Exploring Biblical Identity

- Man and woman was created in the image of God.
Genesis 1:27
- The descendants of Noah were identified by their families, language, land, and nation. **Genesis 10:20**
- Joseph, after being separated from his brothers for 13 years, still identified with them although they didn't recognize him.
Genesis 42:8
- Moses, after growing up in Pharaoh's palace, still identified with his native people although they were slaves.
Hebrews 11:24-25

Introduction

Who Am I?

Let's discuss the following questions:

1. Does what you believe about yourself (identity) affect your actions/behavior? How?
2. Does what you believe about yourself (identity) affect your lifestyle? How?

Introduction

Who Am I?

Exercise: Take a card and describe your Christian identity in writing.

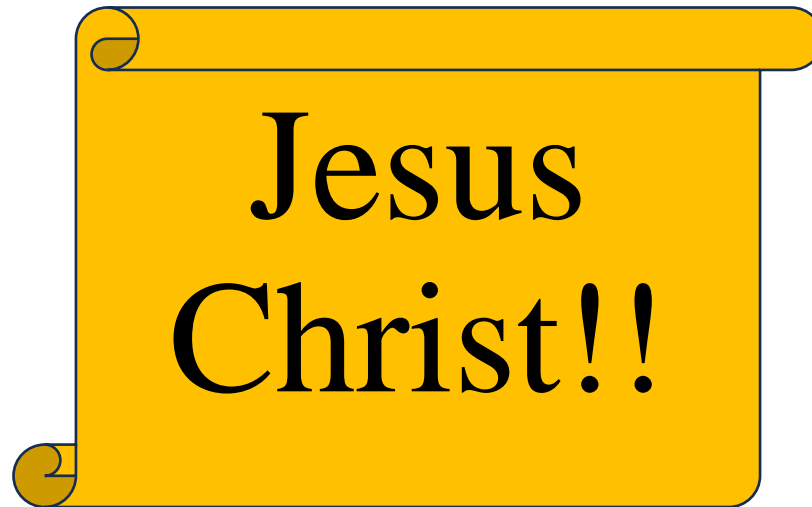
- Prepare to read your Christian identity description to the class.
- How much does your Christian identity impact your lifestyle/actions/behavior? Explain?
- How much does Jesus Christ impact/affect your identity? Explain.

Introduction

Who Am I?

Breaking News

Christian identity begins and ends with...



Introduction

Who Am I?

Breaking News

Christian identity begins and ends with Jesus...

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Introduction

Who Am I?

Breaking News

Christian identity begins and ends with Jesus...

Philippians 3:7-14 - ⁷ But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, ⁹ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Introduction

Who Am I?

Breaking News

Christian identity begins and ends with Jesus...

John 17:1-3

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

² As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

³ And **this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ,** whom thou hast sent.

Introduction

Who Am I?

Breaking News

Christian identity begins and ends with Jesus...

Jeremiah 9:23-24 - ²³ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: ²⁴ **But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me**, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

Introduction

Who Am I?

Breaking News

Christian identity begins and ends with Jesus...

2 Peter 1:2-3 - ² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you **through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,**

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the **knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Introduction
Who Am I?

Let's discuss the following question:
What's the difference between
“knowing of Christ”
and
“knowing Christ”?

Introduction

Who Am I?

Breaking News

Christian identity begins and ends with Jesus...

Philippians 3:10 - ¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

To truly know Christ is to learn and understand him through both knowledge and experience!

Introduction

Who Am I?

Breaking News

Christian identity begins and ends with Jesus...

- **Matthew 11:27-30** - ²⁷ All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.
- ²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
- ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Theme Scripture: Matthew 16:13-17

- ¹³ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
- ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
- ¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
- ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Let's take a poll/survey of questions related to popular opinion of who Jesus is.

After 10 minutes let's come back and discuss the results as a group.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

2022 State of Theology Survey Results

- 55% of American adults and 43% of proclaimed Christians surveyed believe that Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.
- 55% of American adults surveyed believe that Jesus was an important spiritual figure.
- 67% of Americans surveyed believe that God accepts the worship of all religions including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.
- 59% of Americans surveyed do not believe that Jesus existed before he was born in Bethlehem.
- 55% of Americans surveyed believe that Jesus was the first and greatest being created by God.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

What Are Other Religions Saying About Who Jesus Is?

1. Jehovah Witnesses – Believe Jesus is a god like many others, although created first.
2. Mormons – Believe that Jesus is the first born of all spiritual children of God.
3. Muslims – Believe that Jesus was a prophet or messenger of God and he is called the Messiah in the Quaran.
4. Hindus – Believe that Jesus was not uniquely divine, but he was one of many gods they worship; they don't see Jesus as the only way to God.
5. Buddhist – Believe that Jesus was a wise teacher, but he was not divine.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Exercise: Take a card and write down what the following statement means to you.

And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

- 10-minute time limit.
- Prepare to read your answer to the class.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Exercise: Take a card and write down a description of the Christ you know today. Make it personal.

- 10-minute time limit.
- Prepare to read your answer to the class.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

1. Christ is Better – Hebrews 1:1-4

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

⁴ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

1. Christ is Better – Hebrews 1:1-4

- Christ is God's spokesperson.
- Christ is the heir of all things
- Christ is the Creator of the worlds.
- Christ is the brightness of God's glory.
- Christ is the express image of God.
- Christ holds (sustains) all things in this universe with the word of his power.
- Christ purged our sins by himself.
- Christ is sitting down at the right hand of God on high.
- Christ is superior to angels and has inherited a more excellent name.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

2. The Person of Jesus Christ – Colossians 1:15-20

- ¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
- ¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
- ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
- ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
- ¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
- ²⁰ And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

2. The Person of Jesus Christ – Colossians 1:15-20

- Christ is the reflection and full revelation of God.
- Christ created all things, both visible and invisible.
- Christ has no beginning (he is before all things).
- Christ is the sustainer of all creation.
- In Christ all the fullness of God dwells.
- Christ reconciled all things to himself by his blood.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

What Did Jesus Say About His Own Identity?

Let's discuss what you think Jesus meant by the following statements about his identity:

- I am God – John 8:56-58
- I am the Son of God – Mark 14:62
- I am not of this world – John 17:14-16
- I am from above – John 8:23
- I am the resurrection – John 11:25
- I am the light of the world – John 8:12

Who Is Jesus Christ?

What Did Jesus Say About His Own Identity?

Let's discuss what you think Jesus meant by the following statements about his identity:

- I am the true vine – John 15:1,5
- I am the good shepherd – John 10:11,14
- I am the door – John 1:7, 9
- I am the way, the truth, and the life – John 14:6
- No one comes to the Father except through me – John 14:6

Who Is Jesus Christ?

What Did Jesus Say About His Own Identity?

I am the way, the truth, and the life – John 14:6

“Jesus didn’t say that He would show us a way; He said that He is the way.

He didn’t promise to teach us a truth; He said that He is the truth.

Jesus didn’t offer us the secrets to life; He said that He is the life.”

Who Is Jesus Christ?

What Did Jesus Say About His Own Identity?

I am the way, the truth, and the life – John 14:6

I'm wandering about; I don't know where I'm going. Jesus is the way.

I'm confused; I don't know what to think. Jesus is the truth.

I'm dead inside and don't know if I can go on. Jesus is the life.

“Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which thou must follow; the truth in which thou must believe; the life for which thou must hope.” (a' Kempis, cited by Bruce)

The Christ We Know Today

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Christ Our Creator – Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Christ Our Savior – Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

2 Timothy 1:10 - ¹⁰ But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Christ Our Head – Ephesians 4:15-16

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Christ Our Chief Cornerstone – Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Christ Our High Priest – Hebrews 4:12-16

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Christ Our High Priest – Hebrews 4:12-16 (cont.)

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Christ Our Intercessor – Hebrews 7:24-25

²⁴ But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Who Are We In Christ?

Who Are We In Christ?

The Christ We Know Today!

Exercise: Take a card and write down answers to the following questions:

1. Are you saved? If so, explain why? If not, you are in the right place at the right time!
2. What does it mean to be “In Christ”?
 - 15-minute time limit.
 - Prepare to read your answer to the class.

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because We Trust Christ!

Acts 4:10-12

- ¹⁰ Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
- ¹¹ This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.
- ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name** under heaven given among men, **whereby we must be saved.**

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because We Trust Christ!

Romans 1:23-25

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the **redemption**
that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because of Christ!

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to **every one that believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because We Trust Christ!

Romans 5:1-2

- Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 8

- There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because We Trust Christ!

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart man **believeth unto** righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ **For by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because We Trust Christ!

Titus 2:11-13

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

If It Takes Faith To Be
Saved... What is Faith?

Who Are We In Christ?

You Are Saved Because You Trust Christ!

Breaking News

Faith Does Not Save Us!

We Exercise Faith Everyday

- We trust that we will receive a paycheck, so we get up and go to work.
- We trust in airplanes to fly us, so we get on the plane.
- We trust that a chair will hold us, so we sit down.

Your Faith Is Only as Good as the Object of Your Faith!

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because We Trust Christ!

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

↓
Reality

↓
Proof

Faith is the heart reality of what you are hoping for, often proven by action.

Faith in God Means to Take God at His Word!

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because We Trust Christ!

- “Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.” Dr. J Oswald Sanders
- The substance of Christian faith is God’s word!
- The evidence of Christian faith is proof accepted in a court of law!

Faith in God Means to Take God at His Word!

Who Are We In Christ?

We Are Saved Because We Trust Christ!

Mark 11:22 – “Have Faith in God”

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Faith in God Means to Take God at His Word!

Who Are We In Christ?

Breaking News

We Are Only Saved by Trusting Christ as Evidenced by Turning
to God!

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart man **believeth unto** righteousness; and with the mouth **confession is made unto** salvation.

Your Faith Is Only as Good as the Object of Your Faith!

Who Are We In Christ?

The Moment We Trust Christ for Our Salvation as Evidenced by Us Turning to God...God steps in and performs a miracle!

Ephesians 1:12-13

- ¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
- ¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

**God Responds to Your Faith in Christ with Forgiveness
and New Life!**

Who Are We In Christ?

The Moment We Trust Christ for Our Salvation as Evidenced by Us Turning to God...God steps in and performs a miracle!

Ephesians 2:4-5

- ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

**God Responds to Your Faith in Christ with Forgiveness and
New Life!**

Who Are We In Christ?

The Moment We Trust Christ for Our Salvation as Evidenced by Us Turning to God...God Steps in and Performs a Miracle!

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

- ¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- ¹⁸ And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
- ¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

God Responds to Your Faith in Christ with Forgiveness and New Life!

Does Christ Change
Our Identity?

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

Dying to Self (Old Lifestyle) – A Requirement for Salvation

Luke 9:23 - ²³ And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Luke 14:33 - ³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that **forsaketh not all that he hath**, he cannot be my disciple.

1 Peter 2:24 - ²⁴ Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, **being dead to sins**, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

Dying to Self (Old Lifestyle) – A Requirement for Salvation

- John 12:24-26: ²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but **if it die**, it bringeth forth much fruit.
- ²⁵ He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.
- ²⁶ If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

Dying to Self (Old Lifestyle) – A Requirement for Salvation

Galatians 5:24-25: ²⁴ And they that are Christ's **have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 2:20 - ²⁰ **I am crucified with Christ:** nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, we have life – 1 John 5:12

¹¹ And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

¹² He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, God declares the believer justified (not guilty) – Romans 5:1-2

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

• In Christ, believers are “made righteous” – Romans 5:19

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, believers are blessed with all spiritual blessings, and sanctified (set apart for God's service) – Ephesians 1:3-6

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, believers are children of God.

- Galatians 3:26-27

²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- Galatians 4:7-8

⁶ And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

⁷ Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, believers are children of God.

- Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, believers are children of God.

- 1 John 3:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

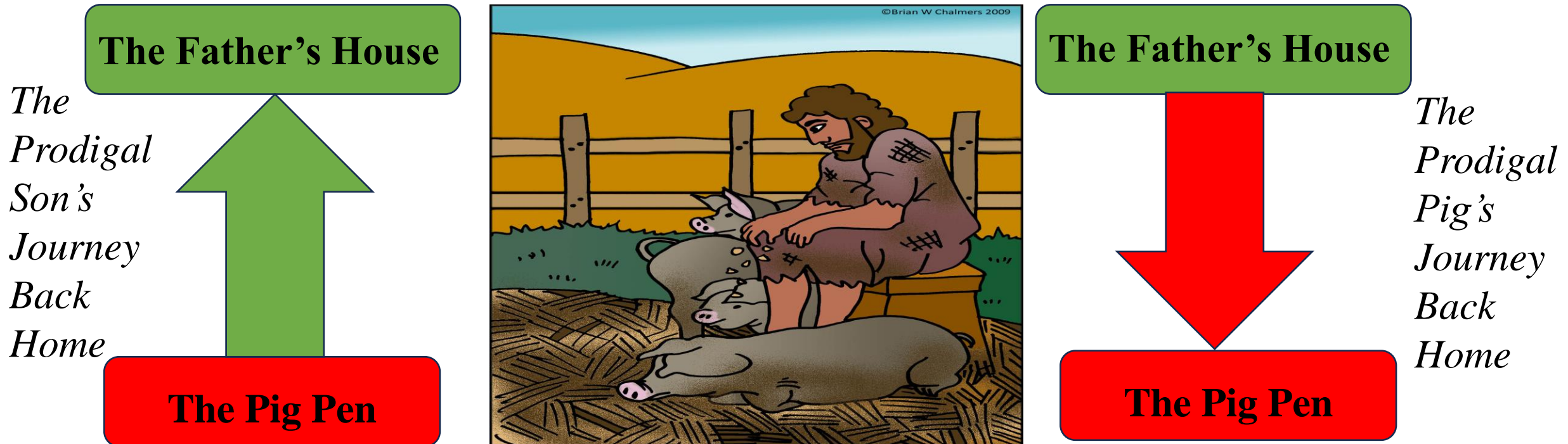
¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, believers are children of God.

1 John 3:10 – Illustrated



Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, believers are children of God.

- Luke 15:17-19: The Prodigal Son's Repentant Attitude

¹⁷ And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

Who Are We In Christ?

Our Position in Christ Changes Our Identity

In Christ, believers are children of God.

- 2 Peter 2:20-22: The Prodigal Pig Revealed

²⁰ For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

²¹ For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

²² But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Embracing Our Identity
in Christ “By Faith”

Embracing Our Identity in Christ “By Faith”

First and Crucial Step: In Christ, believers identify with the death of Christ (old nature/lifestyle died) and the resurrection of Christ (new life given by God) - Romans: 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

² God forbid. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein?

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Embracing Our Identity in Christ “By Faith”

First and Crucial Step: In Christ, believers identify with the death of Christ (old nature/lifestyle died) and the resurrection of Christ (new life given by God) - Romans: 6:1-11

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

⁶ Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

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⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

¹⁰ For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Embracing Our Identity in Christ “By Faith” (Illustrated)

Saul of Tarsus

- **Beat (flogged) Christians**
- **Consented to the death of Stephen**
- **Expert in Jewish Law (Pharisee)**
- **Chief of Sinners**
- **Imprisoned Christians**

Paul the Apostle

- **Planted Christian Churches throughout the Gentile world.**
- **Ushered in the dispensation of grace for Christ.**
- **Wrote 13 Epistles (God Inspired) to the Gentile churches he planted.**
- **Suffered enormously for the name of Jesus Christ.**

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Embracing Our Identity in Christ “By Faith” (Illustrated)

Sherwyn Davis **AKA “Wood”**

- **Single Man: Low-Down Dirty Dog (ruff-ruff!)**
- **Fired from 3 jobs and suspended 3 other times for the same reason – “trying to be slick”; Not trustworthy.**
- **Addicted to alcohol for 22 years, Weed for 8 years, and experimented with other drugs.**

Sherwyn Davis **AKA “Brother Davis”**

- Faithfully married for 24 years; 3 wonderful daughters, and 2 awesome grandkids.
- Chairman of Finance Committee at Zion Chapel Church, Northern Diocese treasurer, and have spending approval limit of \$500,000 for a fortune 500 company.
- Addicted to bible study; Loves studying the bible with other believers.

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Who Are We In Christ?

Does Christ Change Our Identity?

Exercise: Take a card and write down 3 or more changes in your lifestyle, character, or conduct (identity) as a result of you being saved.

- 15-minute time limit.
- Prepare to read your answers to the class.

Embracing Our Identity in Christ “By Faith”

Embrace Christ Our True Vine

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Embracing Our Identity in Christ “By Faith”

Embrace Christ Our Head

Ephesians 4:15-16

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Embracing Our Identity in Christ “By Faith”

Embrace Christ Our Husband

Romans 7:4 - ⁴ Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Ephesians 5:23-30 - ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Embracing Our Identity in Christ “By Faith”

Embrace Christ with our Affections

Colossians 3:1-4, 10 - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

³ For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

A Closer Look At
God's Love

A Closer Look At God's Love

Exercise: Take a card and respond to the following questions:

1. Does God Love You? If so, how do you know?
2. Have you experienced the love of God? If so, how?
3. How much does God love you? Explain
 - 15-minute time limit.
 - Prepare to read your answers to the class.

A Closer Look At God's Love

“Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places”

God's Motivation for Loving Us: John 16:27

²⁷ For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

God's Unconditional Love for the World: Romans 5:8

- ⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- ⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
- ¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

A Closer Look At God's Love

“Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places”

God's Unconditional Love for the World: John 3:16-17

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

A Closer Look At God's Love

“Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places”

God's Unconditional Love for the World: Ephesians 2:2-4

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

A Closer Look At God's Love

“Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places”

God's Unconditional Love for the World: 1 John 4:8-10

⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

A Closer Look At God's Love

“Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places”

God's Abundant Love (From Enemy to Family): 1 John 3:1-3

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

A Closer Look At God's Love

“Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places”

God's Committed Love: Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A Closer Look At God's Love

“Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places”

God's Love Hard To Understand: Ephesians 3:17-19

¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Practical Application:
7 Stages for Strengthening
Our Identity in Christ

Strengthening Our Identity In Christ

Consider the following approaches to developing and strengthening our identity in Christ:

- 1. Study to know Christ and partake of his nature*** — Philippians 3:8-14; 2 Peter 1:1-4
- 2. Learn to receive the love of God our Father*** — Matthew 3:17; John 15:9-10; 1 John 3:1-3; 1 John 4:9-12
- 3. Identify our “False Identity”: Doing things in pursuit of God’s love instead of doing things because we are loved*** – Galatians 3:1-5; 1 Corinthians 1:1-17; Colossians 2:8
- 4. Let go of performing and earning for God’s love and just be a loved son/daughter of God*** – Colossians 2:18-23

Strengthening Our Identity In Christ

Consider the following approaches to developing and strengthening our identity in Christ (cont.):

5. ***Face the emptiness of not knowing who you are in Christ and learn to be loved of God*** – 1 Peter 1:3-9
6. ***Yield to God's Grace by learning to give permission to God's grace and power to work through you*** –
Colossians 3:12-17
7. ***Practice, practice, practice what it means to already be loved by God*** – Ephesians 5:1-2

Discovering Your Identity “In Christ”

Topics Covered This Week:

1. Introduction – Who Am I?
2. Who Is Jesus Christ?
3. Who Are We In Christ?
4. Does Christ Change Our Identity?
5. Embracing Our Identity In Christ “By Faith”
6. A Closer Look At God’s Love
7. Practical Application: Strengthening Our Identity In Christ
8. Practical Application: The New Believer’s Identity Journey
9. Reflections

Practical Application:
New Believer's Identity
Journey

The New Believer's Identity Journey

Brother Davis's Testimony

- When I came to Christ, I knew nothing about the faith walk.
 - My only goal was to not turn back.

Group Exercise (if time permits):

- Discuss how someone like Brother Davis takes the journey from knowing nothing about the Christian faith to embracing their identity in Christ.
 - What is the church's role in their journey?

The New Believer's Identity Journey

Brother Davis's Testimony

- When I came to Christ, I knew nothing about the faith walk.
- My only goal was to not turn back so I just hung out at the church as much as possible since they had something going on every day of the week.
- What happened in the early stages of my journey?
- Besides Christ, of course, I can only credit my embracing Christ properly to the church I was saved in.
- What did they do to me early on in my journey to ensure that my identity was properly developed in Christ?

The New Believer's Identity Journey

Brother Davis's Testimony

The Church's role in my development was as follows:

1. The first thing they did was taught me **how to worship**.
2. They immediately signed me up for new membership class for the purpose of providing me with the **appropriate foundation** for my journey.
3. They encouraged me to **get involved** in the men's ministry.
4. They **emphasized Christian Education** and offered bible study several times a week.
5. They provided me with several **opportunities to serve** both inside and outside the church.

The New Believer's Identity Journey

Brother Davis's Testimony

My role in my development was as follows:

1. Because of my fear of turning back, the only thing I knew to do was to hang out at the church.

Romans 6:19

¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now **yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.**

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Reflections