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GLOBAL Thunder Bay Sunday 9:30 am Thursday 10:00 am

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Program Times are EST

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IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST



"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

A WHOLE NEW LIFE

Did you know that every person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour has a new identity in Christ? Our introductory text tells us: "a new life has begun." Along with our new life, we have been given a new identity in Christ. God sees us in Christ through the finished work of the cross. We need to get acquainted with our new selves as new creations. The New Testament gives us 133 verses that reveal to us specifically who we are, what we have and what we can do. These scriptures contain key words such as "in Him" "through Him" and "with Him" to tell us who we are in Christ. We'll need to study these scriptures in order to truly discover our new identity as a new creation.

NO LONGER A SINNER

One scripture that is very important to know is this: "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT) Now the enemy would like you to see yourself as an old sinner with all your scars and flaws, but God wants you to see yourself new in Christ. God does not condemn us because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and made us right in God's sight. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1 K/V) These scriptures give us a new outlook. You're not just an old sinner saved by grace. You are in right standing with God! As we meditate on the "In Him" Scriptures and study the Epistles, we will come to understand the reality of our new identity are our new position in God's family.

OUR NEW IDENTITY

Having a new identity means you have begun a new life. This is exactly what 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us: "the old life is gone; a new life has begun." The term "identity" refers to the distinguishing character or personality of an individual. Your identity is who you are as a person. We develop our sense of identity primarily through our family and social interactions. Through our new birth experience, we have now entered into a new family. We are born into the family of God and now enjoy a new life and a new identity. It's up to us to learn how to operate in the principles of our new life!

Let's look briefly at 5 vital facts we should know about our new identity with Christ.

#I: CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

You must identify yourself crucified with him! Jesus paid the entire price for the consequences of sin by going to the cross. "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..." (Galatians 2:20 NLT)

#2: DIED WITH CHRIST

Jesus died first spiritually and then physically on the cross. Through his substitutionary death, we can receive eternal life. "And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him." (Romans 6:8 NLT)

#3: BURIED WITH CHRIST

"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." (Romans 6:4) We were not physically present when they laid Jesus' body in the tomb, however, Scripture affirms that we identify with his burial. Water baptism gives us a physical expression to identify with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. When you are fully immersed under water during baptism, you are identifying with Christ's burial.

#4: MADE ALIVE WITH CHRIST

"For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." (Romans 6:5 KJV) When Jesus was made alive by the power of the Holy Spirit, we were made alive too! "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" (Ephesians 2:5) That word "quickened" means "made alive." With our sin nature dealt with on the cross, we can rise up to new life in Christ!

#5: SEATED WITH CHRIST

"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe ... which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 1:19-20) We are not only risen with Christ, but we now rule and reign with Him. Positionally we are seated with Him and share His authority over the enemy! We see life from a new perspective. As a member of the body of Christ, we are ruling with Jesus. (See Ephesians 1:21-22)

As you study and meditate on these five facts, your sense of identification with Christ will grow stronger. Once you know your new identity, nothing can stop you from living a life of true victory!



Miigwetch, Dr. Roma J. Fisher

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