

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE BELIEVER'S IDENTITY IN CHRIST (PART 2)

SCRIPTURE READING:

- “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Ps 139:14).
- “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest” (Joshua 1:9).
- “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor 5:17).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Charles Stanley taught that a Believer's identity is established by God through Christ, making them a “new creation,” a “saint,” a “beloved child of God,” and a member of the Body of Christ.** This God-given identity provides a solid foundation for a life of faith and purpose, allowing Believers to rely on God's strength and His Word, rather than on their feelings or circumstances, to overcome sin, doubt, and insecurity.”
- B. **“W.A. Criswell taught that a Believer's identity in Christ is a new supernatural creation established by God's Grace, not human effort.** This new identity defines and secures a Christian's present and eternal life, making them a child of God and a joint-heir with Christ. Criswell emphasized that this new reality comes from outside the Believer, through faith in Jesus Christ.”
- C. **“Billy Graham taught that a Believer's true identity is found in Christ, not in worldly labels, past mistakes, or other people's opinions, emphasizing that in Christ, one is a “new creation” clothed in God's righteousness, no longer enslaved by sin.** He encouraged Christians to embrace this new identity, which provides a true sense of purpose and belonging, and to let it transform their behavior, enabling them to live out their faith and share the good news with others.”

Our identity in Christ changes our outlook on life and how we live our lives. We recognize that Christ became as we are so that we might become as He is.

- “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” (1 John 3:2).
- D. **In the Believer's Identity In Christ (Part 1), we studied that in Christ, the Believer is a new creation, a child of God, chosen and holy, forgiven and redeemed.**
Today, in Part 2, we will study our identity in Christ as established, given all things for a Godly life, heir, justified, purified, unashamed, and victorious.

In Christ, You Are ...

I. ESTABLISHED (Rom 16:25)

- “Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began” (Rom 16:25).

Establish means to make firm, to fix or to establish someone in their faith, giving them stability and security in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A. The Power of God Through the Gospel of Christ

The power of God through the Gospel and the preaching and proclamation of Christ, is able to strengthen Believers to overcome sin. The power of God through the Gospel of Christ is the means by which a person can receive forgiveness of sin and righteousness from God.

B. “The Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation to every one that Believeth” (Rom 1:6). A person cannot achieve salvation based on his own merits or efforts – Salvation is a Gift from Christ.

- “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” (Eph 2:8-9).

II. GIVEN ALL THINGS FOR A GODLY LIFE (2 Peter 1:3)

- “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” (2 Pet 1:3).

This verse assures us that God has made full provision for Believers to live a life of holiness. Just as the Believer is saved by Christ, He gives the Believer power to live holy lives. The Power of the Gospel of Christ is what saves the Believer from the Penalty of Sin (Rom 5:8-9), The Power of Sin (Rom 6:6-7), and from Eternal Damnation (John 3:16; Rom 6:23).

- “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet 1:16).

III. HEIRS (Rom 8:17)

- “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” (Rom 8:17).

All of the children of God – Believers are “Heirs of God and Joint Heirs of Christ.”

Heir is used to describe Believers as recipients of a Gift from God.

A. “Heirs of God” emphasizes the Believer’s Relationship with God as Father

B. “Joint-Heirs of Christ” emphasizes that Believer’s have been given the privilege of sharing Christ’s inheritance .

1. Believers Inherit Salvation (Heb 1:14).
2. Believers Inherit Eternal Life (1 Pet 1:4).
3. Believers Inherit a Measure of the Throne of Christ (Rev 3:21).

- “Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (Gal 4:7).
- “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory” (Eph 1:14).

IV. **JUSTIFIED** (Rom 5:1)

- “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1).

“**Justified**” means to be declared righteous. Justification is an act of God whereby He declares a sinner to be righteous because of that sinner’s faith in Christ.

A. Justification is the remission of the penalty of Sin, which is death (Rom 3:23; 8:1; 1 Pet 2:24).

B. Justification is a complete pardon of all sins (Isa 43:25; Col 2:13-14; Rom 3:24-25; 1 John 1:9).

The person justified by God is declared as not guilty. He is free from the condemnation and the wrath of God. He is forgiven of all sins – past, present, and future.

- **Justified by Faith**

Not by Good – that I have done, not by merit – that I have won None of this – could ever purchase. My Salvation from the Lord on that men – would just believe.

Sanctified and Holy – Faultless and Pure now when God looks at me. I’m so glad in Jesus – I am justified by faith.

V. **PURIFIED** (Heb 10:22)

- “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb 10:22).

“**Purified**” means to be cleansed from sin and guilt. God purifies the Believer through the sacrificial Blood of Christ, the continuous work of the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God.

A. Believers must draw near or approach God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water – our bodies represent our lives.

B. According to John 4:24, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.”

C. Our consciences are cleansed when we bring our sins, faults, and failures to appease God to the foot of the Cross. It is the atonement of Christ that forgives our sin and cleanses our conscience.

D. Purity

Purity is not just the way we act, but it is our entire conversation. It is our thoughts, words and deeds that show our true heart's intent. Purity is part of the "new" man that we put on when we become a Christian. Putting off old habits that are not edifying to God should be the desire of every Christian's heart. When your heart is filled with impure thoughts, you need to be spending more time in God's word so that His words will be hidden in your heart so that you will not sin against Him (Pamela Rose Williams).

- "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil 4:8).
- "Either sin will keep you from the Word, or the Word will keep you from sin." – John Bunyan

VI. UNASHAMED (Rom 10:11)

"For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed" (Rom 10:11).

"Ashamed" means disappointed, disgraced, humiliated, put to shame or let down

A. The Believer in Christ will not be put to shame.

Those who place their trust in Christ as their personal Savior will not be disappointed or let down by God.

B. A Believer should never ever be ashamed of Christ – He Died For All!!

He promised Salvation, Eternal Life, and abundant supplies to all who call on Him.

- "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38).
- "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26).

C. I'm Not Ashamed to Own the Lord

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend his cause, maintain the honor of his Word, the glory of his cross.

Jesus, my God! I know his name, his name is all my trust; nor will he put my soul to shame, nor let my hope be lost.

VII. VICTORIOUS (1 Cor 15:57)

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:57).

“**Victory**” means conquest, triumph, to overcome, to prevail, to win

A. Through faith in Christ, Believers have victory over death and the grave.

Christ conquered death which refers to His resurrection. He who was dead is now alive forevermore (Rev 1:18).

B. Christ’s atonement for sin, broke the power of death and gave Believers the assurance of Eternal Life and their own future resurrection.

C. It is through faith in Christ, Believers are forgiven of their sin debt in full, assured of an eternal relationship with God and are recipients of the living hope in the resurrection and the promise that death is a temporary sleep before Eternal Life with Christ.

- “²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:25-26).
- “¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thess 4:16-17).

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- A. The Gospel of Christ is the only means of Salvation which is a Gift from God.**
- B. God pardons Believers of all Sins – Past, Present, and Future. Christ paid our sin debt in full.**
- C. Believers must approach God with a sincere heart and in full assurance of faith.**
- D. The Believer should never ever be Ashamed of Christ.**
- E. Victory over death and the grave is only through Christ.**

MEMORY VERSE:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

CONCLUSION:

A. Victory In Jesus

I heard an old, old story how a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing.
How He made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory.

O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever.
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

B. ABC's of Salvation

- A – Admit that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- B – Believe that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- C – Confess/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



From the Preaching Ministry of:
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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).