

## True Identity

### Ephesians 1:11 (The Message)

<sup>11</sup>It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.

### 2 Keys to Life

- Seeing God for who He really is.
- Seeing ourselves for who we have become because of Jesus.

The moment we received Christ as Savior and Lord we were instantly identified with Christ and became part of His family. In God's eyes, we are "in Christ".

Our sense of identity is the very foundation upon which all our hopes and dreams lie. We will live out our destiny one to the degree that we live in an abiding sense of who we are in Jesus. Over two hundred times the New Testament utilizes what could be called "identity scriptures". These are the scriptures that refer to who we are "in Him," "through Him" or "by Him". Plus there are references to "what we have" or "what we can do" because of Him. We must accept these truths as our new identity

You are a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Colossians 1:21-22 (New Living Translation)

<sup>21</sup> This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. <sup>22</sup> Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

## Identifying with Christ

### A new You

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (New International Version)**

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

### God's View of You

Because we are now “in Christ”, we have been given right standing, acceptance, and a new nature. God sees us for who we have become because of the finished work of Jesus.

#### **1 Peter 2:9-10 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

### Worth and Value

#### **Colossians 2:10 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>10</sup> So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

### **3 things that will establish our sense of worth and value that comes from God.**

#### **1. Identity**

Our source of identity determines our self-image ( the way we see ourselves). Self-image determines our behavior ( the way we treat others). We begin to take on the image of the one we are looking to for identity.

We look for identity where we find acceptance; therefore we will tend to find our worth by the value that person places on us.

#### **1 Peter 2:9 (New International Version)**

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

---

## Discovering the God First Life

---

### Session 4

---

#### **2. Acceptance**

**Ephesians 1:5-7** (New King James Version)

<sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

#### **3. Approval**

**Matthew 3:17** (New International Version)

17And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

## Water Baptism

Water Baptism is a public declaration that we are new creations in Christ. We are declaring that Jesus is our Lord and Savior and our lives are now identified with Him.

### **Matthew 10:32** (New International Version)

<sup>32</sup>"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

Water Baptism is:

- Symbolic of death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3)
- Identification with Jesus
- Submission to God (John 15:14)
- Expectation of God's power
- Sacrament ordained by Jesus for us to practice (Matthew 28:19)
- Surrender of the old you

*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin (Romans 6:4-6).*