

# My Identity in Christ

Module 3 Week 1

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## The Foundation: Identity in Christ- From New Birth to New Mind

**Matthew 22:37-40**<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”<sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. **And the second is like it:** ‘You shall love your *neighbor as yourself*.’<sup>40</sup> *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

*(emphasis added)*

- As we start this module off, I want to share something the Lord showed me. As you can see in that section of scripture above, I emphasized in bold and an increase in font, two specific points: A Lawyer came to Jesus and asked Him what was the greatest commandment and Jesus answered; love The Lord Your God with everything you have, and the second is like it, Love your neighbor as you love you.
- So The Lord gave equal importance to loving God and loving people, first which is incredible but then equally profound at the end He said, “AS YOURSELF”! Does anyone see what I’m saying here? If we don’t love ourselves, If we don’t value ourselves, and in the same token understand our value to God we cant love others because we wont understand their inherent value either.
- For further clarification in **1 John 4:20**<sup>20</sup> *If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, <sup>[a]</sup>how can he love God whom he has not seen?*
  - So we see that if we don’t love others we cant say we love God! We can get so out of order by not loving ourselves. The order is: If I believe what God says about me and understand my value to God than I begin to love myself, and as I see my inherent value to God I realize you share that same value and I begin to love you, and by loving you who I can see I am loving God who I cannot

see. Do you see now how we have to have everything in the right order because each one builds on the last and if we don't have the first block right the whole structure can be off?

- So were going to take the next couple of weeks and get our identity right. If we see ourselves right we'll see each other right, and when we realize how incredibly God sees us it creates gratitude and appreciate for Him in us leading to Intimacy. The Lord showed me that **Identity is the Vehicle to Intimacy, and Intimacy is the road to Purpose!** We need to put our identity into something Eternal and not Temporal! Someone who never changes the way they feel about us, who will Never fail us!
- So How then? How do we get our Identity right? What significance do we have? What must we do?

## **WE MUST BE BORN AGAIN**

***John 3:3-6**<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born <sup>[a]</sup>again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

*<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

- Last module we saw our need for a Savior. In the Garden when Adam and Eve sinned against God by taking of the fruit and eating we lost our connection to God. Where Adam and Eve were only conscious of others and God it was replaced with self-consciousness and a wrong view of God and spiritual death. Sin brings self, and shame, spiritual death, and eventually physical death. And we needed someone to save us from ourselves.
  - In steps Jesus the Christ! The promised Messiah, Seed of the woman, Son of David, Son of Abraham, Son of God. The Second Adam. Who took our sin upon Himself that we Might take His sonship upon ourselves. He restored us to the Father not according to our own works but according to Faith in the Finished work of the Cross.
1. So Christ Jesus was crucified, buried, resurrected, and ascended into Heaven and sprinkled His blood on the Mercy Seat once and for all, a perfect sacrifice; that all who believe, to all who repent and change their minds from there old selfish self-centered lens in life and turn towards God and surrender their lives to His Lordship would be saved!

**John 1:12-13-** <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the <sup>[a]</sup>right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**Romans 6:4-4-** <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> 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.

**Galatians 2:20-** <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** <sup>13</sup> In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who <sup>[a]</sup> is the <sup>[b]</sup>guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

**Romans 10: 9-10-** <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2. So we heard the Gospel and The Holy Spirit pricked our heart, we felt conviction for the first time! We realized that we have been living for ourselves and that it was getting us nowhere but leading us into sin, depravity, brokenness, pain, heartache, and emptiness... So we responded and made a clear decision to turn from ourselves, our wants, our lusts and desires, ourself, and to turn to a Holy God through Jesus Christ and have decided to surrender wholly and completely to His Lordship, His Kingship, and we have received the Holy Spirit of God to live with us dwells in us and guides us into returning to the image of God. (take a second here if you have not done this and surrender your life to Jesus). Welcome to the Family of God!!!!

- I want to take a second to emphasize somethings: **Christianity is not about becoming better people, it is about becoming a completely New Person in Christ! Being Born-Again is NOT about behavior, it is about believing in what has already been done! Satan is after your believer!** If He can get you to doubt God, or doubt who He says you are or what you have in Him you will Never see the fruition of your purpose in His Kingdom!!!! **The essential Christian Message is Not Behave, but Behold!** As you behold the beauty of God you will be changed from Glory to Glory!!!!

**2 Corinthians 5:17-** <sup>17</sup> *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

**2 Corinthians 3:18-** <sup>18</sup> *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as <sup>[a]</sup>by the Spirit of the Lord.*

- Most believers try to live from effort instead of from identity, but the core of the Gospel is Identity precedes activity, the verdict comes before performance! If we can see what God sees, we can do what God commands.
- Transformation does not begin with changing actions, but with receiving Truth! It is a free gift reach out and take it! If you misunderstand who you are, you will misunderstand how to live!!!!
- Look at the Israelites... they were delivered from Egypt, delivered from slavery, but because they were still slaves on the inside they wandered in the desert for 40 years and it was their children who entered the promise land!!!!
- Don't be like the Israelites! You are free, believe what God says about you, your not becoming children of God you already are!!!!

### **3. What Happens when we are Born Again?**

**Ezekial 36:26-27-** <sup>26</sup> *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

- We are given a new heart that desires to seek after the things of God! To desire to obey, to read Gods Word, to Pray and Commune with Holy Spirit, and to be around God's people.
- We might not always have the know how, because our mind still has to be renewed, but we have the desire to be with God and obey Him.

**John 3:6-** <sup>6</sup> *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

**Titus 3:5-** <sup>5</sup> *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

**1 Peter 1:23-** <sup>23</sup> *having been born again, not of <sup>[a]</sup>corruptible seed but <sup>[b]</sup>incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides <sup>[c]</sup>forever,*

- We were given a new nature through the Spirit which now indwells us and gives us the power over sin, and Ourselves. He lives with us in us and through us to achieve the will of God here on Earth!

The New Birth is **NOT**:

- God improving your old nature/behavior or fixing your personality defects. **2 Peter 1:4-4** *by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the <sup>[a]</sup>corruption that is in the world through lust.*
- God forgiving you while He leaves you the same inside; or so that you can live however you want, and do whatever you want regardless of consequence yet still go to heaven some day!!!

The New Birth **IS** :

- A supernatural exchange where you receive: a new heart, a new spirit, God's Holy Spirit forever united with yours dwelling on the inside of you! You receive the mind of Christ, and a new set of Godly desires in spite of your mind being renewed day by day.

YOU WERE NOT FORGIVEN INTO YOUR OLD LIFE- YOU WERE BORN INTO A COMPLETELY NEW ONE!!!!!!!

**Matthew 9:17-17** *Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins <sup>[a]</sup>break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

- Before we move on I want to make some distinctions:

The Flesh- This is unrenewed thinking, strongholds, patterns, habits, hurts, traumas, and hangups that make us unable to relate to and interact with God. This is the inherently selfish patterns of thinking, and sensual (5 senses) way to which we relate to our world, environment, and other people.

The Old Man- Refers to who we were before we were born again. Born Dead. Sold as a slave under the Task Master of Sin. Unregenerated.

**Romans 6:6-** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be <sup>[a]</sup>done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

**The New Man**- Alive in Christ Jesus, Righteous, Holy, Blameless, and beyond reproach.  
Bold in the day of judgement!

#### 4. The Fundamental Principles of Our New Identity

- **Principle 1: Identity Precedes Behavior!**
- Behavior modification will only last until you run out of energy or until your circumstances and situations press you over what you can handle then what is in your heart will come out.

**Proverbs 4:23**-<sup>23</sup> Keep your heart with all diligence,  
For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

**Matthew 15:18-19**-<sup>18</sup> But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

- The New Testament NEVER tells us to become something- it tells us to live from what Has already been done!!!!
- Behavior is the fruit not the root!!!! We Become what we behold, we become what we believe about ourselves!!!! Another way of saying that is you will act out how you see yourself. If you see yourself as selfish, or angry, or an addict, or a liar; then that's what you will be. If you believe you have no worth then you will act like you have no worth, you wont try, you wont give your best because you'll tell yourself what is the point, ill never succeed anyways... believe me I lived there, for so long!
- If you begin to trust what God says about you and get a better view of your self your actions will line up with your beliefs.

**Romans 6:6-11**-<sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be <sup>Ⓜ</sup>done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been <sup>Ⓜ</sup>freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, **we believe** that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. <sup>10</sup> For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Likewise you also, <sup>Ⓜ</sup>reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Colossians 3:1-3**-<sup>3</sup> *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

- You don't act Righteous to become Righteous- You act righteous because you are!!!! Everything that could ever be done to make you right with God and restore your relationship to Him was finished on the Cross so stop striving and straining and just receive it! **TETELESTAI!!!!**

**Principle 2: Your Identity is a Gift, not an Achievement**

- You did not receive the New Birth because of anything that you have done, or your works or because you even deserved it; and your new Identity in Christ is the same: IT IS A GIFT JUST RECIEVE IT WITH GRATITUDE AND FAITH.

***Ephesians 2:8-9-*** <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

***Romans 5:17-*** <sup>17</sup> For if by the one man's <sup>[a]</sup> offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

***1 Corinthians 1:30-*** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

- Identity is received, not earned!!!!
- God is Holy set apart, He is completely other, so no matter what you do ever unless He is the one who does it it is tainted and unworthy of His standard, but that is good news because it means we can release our striving and straining towards perfection and just accept the gift and allow Him to do the work!
- I want to say something right here for my fellow performance based Christians (those of us who keep trying to earn God's love and our sonship) YOU CAN NEVER BE MORE LOVED, MORE HOLY, MORE RIGHTEOUS, OR MORE BORN AGAIN THAN YOU ARE RIGHT NOW!!! When He looks at you He sees perfection; that should really release us from bondage, just receive His love and validation its who He is.
- Performance based Christianity ALWAYS produces insecurity or Pride and neither glorify God. So just receive this free adoption into His family and accept it.

**Principle 3: God relates to You According to Who You are in Christ**

- God is not interacting with your past, Your old man was crucified with Christ. He's not trying to resurrect the old man to have a conversation with Him/Her.
- He has so much for you, more than you could ever imagine. If you would just dare to believe what He says about you, then He could move you into what He made you for,

but you have to let go of the old man, and the Flesh because you cant take them with you on this new journey with God.

- Important distinction: This needs to be noted; Conviction IS NOT TO CONDEMN YOU! It's a part of the believers lifestyle to transform you into the image and likeness of God. Its like the bumpers on the bowling lane, it prevents you from ending up in the gutter!!!

**Romans 8:1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who<sup>[a]</sup> do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

**Hebrews 10:14-**<sup>14</sup> *For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being<sup>[a]</sup> sanctified.*

**Colossians 2:10-**<sup>10</sup> *and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all<sup>[a]</sup> principality and power.*

## 5. What our New Identity Is:

### Who I am (This is who I am because of Who He is!)

- **You are a New Creation**-not behavior modification, but a whole new being made complete in the Image of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-**<sup>17</sup> *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

- **You are a child of God.** You have been adopted into His family, an heir with Christ. United forever with Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:15-16-**<sup>15</sup> *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba,<sup>[a]</sup> Father."*<sup>16</sup> *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

- **You are the seed of Abraham.** This makes you the culmination of the promise given to Abraham, and proves both God's Sovereignty and Faithfulness.

**Genesis 12:1-3-** **12** Now the LORD had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country,  
From your family  
And from your father's house,  
To a land that I will show you.  
<sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.  
<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Galatians 3:29-** <sup>29</sup> *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

- **You are the Bride of Christ.** Jesus is coming back for a spotless Bride who has made herself ready for the groom. We were once slaves turned Sons, but as we progress into intimacy we are Brides adorning ourselves in wedding garments made ready for Jesus our groom.
- I want to spend a moment here, being the bride of Christ speaks of intimacy, and a oneness and closeness that is second to none. When the marriage relationship is talked about in scripture two words are used one is the Greek word Ginoskos- joined close a knowing as a husband knows a wife, and the Greek koinonia which is joint, fellowship, communion, so close you don't know where one ends and the other begins. And that's the closeness the God of the universe desires with you!!!

**2 Corinthians 11:2-** *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

**Revelation 19:7-** <sup>7</sup> *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*

**Ephesians 5:27-** <sup>27</sup> *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

**Revelation 21:2-** <sup>2</sup> *Then I, [a] John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

- To the men: I know it is a strange thing to think of yourself as a bride, but don't think of this in like some weird way, this is relationally not literally.
- **You are Righteous.** Now right this second, you don't have to earn it this is your current standing with God. You are in right relationship.

**2 Corinthians 5:21-** <sup>21</sup> *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- He took your place so you could take His, your sin is gone, debt paid, God looks at you and sees Jesus!
- **You are Holy and Blameless.** Your not becoming Holy, your behavior doesn't make or break you, you are blameless in His sight right Now! Realizing and believing this brings boldness, we no longer have to fear judgement!

**Colossians 1:22-** <sup>22</sup> *in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—*

### **Where I Live From.**

- **Seated with Christ.** I am with Christ now, Im not trying to obtain, or strive to be with Him, Im united with Him right now!

**Ephesians 2:6-** <sup>6</sup> *and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

- **In Christ, not Adam.** I no longer relate to my old sinful nature, but my nature that is like God's.

**Romans 5:18-19-** *Therefore, as through <sup>[b]</sup>one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one<sup>[i]</sup> Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. <sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*

- Because of this shift I can approach God with freedom confidence and boldness, because He is our Father.

### **How God Sees Me Right Now.**

- **Accepted.** He accepts us right now faults, and all, regardless of our behavior, and mistakes.

**Ephesians 1:6-** <sup>6</sup> *to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He <sup>[a]</sup>made us accepted in the Beloved*

- **Complete.** We're Whole, complete and lacking nothing. He is our sustainer, redeemer, and we are completely content and fulfilled in Him. We need nothing because He is our all and all.

**Colossians 2:10-** <sup>10</sup> *and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all <sup>[a]</sup>principality and power.*

**Philippians 4:12-13-** <sup>12</sup>I know how to <sup>[a]</sup>be abased, and I know how to <sup>[b]</sup>abound.

*Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through <sup>[c]</sup>Christ who strengthens me.*

- **Justified.** Just as if I never sinned. He didn't just remove our sins, forgive our sins, ignore our sins, no... in His sight it as if we have never committed a single sin. Were free from it completely.

**Romans 5:1-** *Therefore, having been justified by faith, <sup>[a]</sup>we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

**Loved like Jesus is Loved.** The Father loves us like He loves Jesus and has for eternity

**John 17:23-** *I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

6. So to close this week: Identity is not how you feel- it's what God has declared! Its not feelings, emotions, circumstances, situations, people, places, or things... those are all temporal, passing away and will fail you. Its set in eternity with Jesus who NEVER changes, the same yesterday, today, and forever! It's not about your Behavior, it's about your Believer, its about what you behold! What you see is what you'll be!!!

Next week were going to talk about how to applicably appropriate this! Its not just enough to agree and mentally accent that these things are true. You have to appropriate them into your life. Matthew 7 and James 1, we must be doers of the word! That includes believing what God says about us!!!