

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service: Bible Study

Topic: Our Identity in Christ

Date: September 2, 2020

Part 1: The Plan for our Identity

Teacher: Pastor Bimbola Lawore

Texts: Genesis 1:26-31, Ephesians 1:3-14

The goal of this 3-part bible study session is to take an in-depth look into what the bible says about our identification in Christ. We will examine what the scriptures says about our Identity in Christ, by looking into:

1. The Plan of our Identity in Christ
2. The Purpose of our Identity in Christ
3. The Power of our Identity in Christ

What is Identity?

Dictionary defines identity as who we are, the way we think about ourselves, the way we are viewed by the world and the characteristics that defines us. In the natural our identity is tied to our name, gender, family, ethnicity, race, and country of origin. As people grow older in life, the quest for identity increases and people begin to seek for identity beyond their family ties. People turn to material things, places, relationships, people, position, power to derive their identity etc. The search for identity seems to be a journey that humans will always search for until their life on earth ends, since natural identity is based on what you do, who you are with, how the world sees you, this has led to the issue of identity crisis.

Today, I have good news for you; true and lasting identity can only be found in Christ. Knowing your spiritual identity is life changing, it is a necessity for all God's children. I have listed below few reasons why you must know and embrace your spiritual identity i.e. who you are in Christ!

Why is it Important to know about your Spiritual Identity?

1. You begin to live a victorious life.
2. You discover how much God loves you, no fear, no guilt. John 3:16
3. You cultivate a free loving relationship with God, no strife
4. You discover your real name; you are free from Identity crisis. 1 Peter 2:9
5. You discover your inheritance in God and the power available to you. Ephesians 1:18-19
6. You begin to walk and live in the authenticity, no longer moved by praise or rejection of people
7. You begin to transfer the grace to others; you empower others to discover and walk in their true identity.
8. You will experience having a blissful and healthy marriage
9. You become healthy parents, raising healthy children
10. It makes us healthy body of believers and healthy members of the society whose lives brings God glory

The Image of God

*"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:26-27(NIV). Write down four "I am statements" you can infer from Genesis 1:26-27***

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation" Colossians 1:15 (NLT)

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven” Hebrews 1:3 (NIV)

God’s Divine Plan for our Identity - Ephesians 1:3-14

*“God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. 11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, [c] for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. 12 God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. 13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. **And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own[d] by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.** 14 The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him*

God Identified us in Christ through the plan of redemption. Through the rebirth of our Spirit, God positioned us to be in Christ; so, He can identify us with Christ.

We Identify with Christ based on our Position in Christ

1. Crucified with Christ - Our Old Self Died with Christ

Galatians 2:20 *“I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (AMP)*

2. Buried with Christ - Our Old Self was Buried with Christ

Romans 6:4 *“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

Colossians 2:12 *“For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.” (NLT)*

3. Raised with Christ - Our New Self was Raised with Christ

Ephesians 2:4-5 *“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)” (NLT)*

4. Seated with Christ – Because we are in Christ, we are Seated with Him

Ephesians 2:6-7 *“For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms **because we are united with Christ Jesus.** 7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.” (NLT)*

Conclusion: Pray for a deeper revelation to know and understand who you are in Christ.

Ephesians 1:15-17 *“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[d] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.” (NIV)*