

I Am a New Creation

Lesson 02 of the series "Identity"

A. Through Christ I am a new creation.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

1. Through Christ my sins are forgiven and forgotten.

"Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins."

Acts 13:38 (NLT)

"He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." Psalm 103:12 (NLT)

"I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again." Isaiah 43:25 (NLT)

2. Through Christ I am holy and blameless.

"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." Colossians 1:22 (NLT)

Note: Through salvation my position has changed.

"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus... If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ...Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself." Romans 8:1, 31,33 (NLT)

3. Through Christ I am spiritually alive.

"You were dead because of your sins... Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins." Colossians 2:13 (NLT)

"Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:3-5 (NLT)

WARNING False identity. I am so messed up God can never forgive me.

WARNING False identity. I am basically a good person and better than most. I need to improve a few things but I don't need a whole new life.

"We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." Romans 3:22-24 (NLT)

B. Because I am a new creation in Christ...

1. I am useful to God.

"I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns... For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." Philippians 1:6, 2:13 (NLT)

WARNING False identity. Even though Jesus forgave me, I'm still not good enough to be useful.

2. I must pursue the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of my life.

"So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy." 1 Peter 1:14-15 (NLT)

"Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace." Romans 8:5-6 (NLT)

Note: Through sanctification my condition will change.

“...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives... if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” Galatians 5:22-25,6:1-2 (NLT)

3. I must tell others about new life through Jesus.

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’” 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NLT)

04-30-17 • John Schmidt • john@centeringlives.com

Connect Group Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever believed something that later turned out to be completely false? When you discovered the truth how did you respond?
2. Why do many Christians believe they are “not good enough” to be useful to God? What do you think the Apostle Paul would say to such a person based on Philippians 2:13?
3. Read Psalm 103:12 and Isaiah 43:25. Does God really forgive and forget? If so, then why do many Christians live as if God is keeping score?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:14-15 and Romans 8:5-6. How do we pursue holy living? (see also Romans 12:2) What are some things that keep us from being holy in all we do?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. Has God made you aware of someone who needs to hear the Good News about Jesus? If so, who? Spend some as a group praying for each other asking God to give each of you opportunities to show you care and talk about your faith with the people you have mentioned.
6. Quotes to Ponder:

“I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness.” The OT prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:10)

"The major strategy of Satan is to distort the character of God and the truth of who we are. He can't change God and he can't do anything to change our identity and position in Christ. If, however, he can get us to believe a lie, we will live as though our identity in Christ isn't true." Neil T. Anderson

“Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.” David (Psalm 51:7)