

Lesson 6 – Identity in Christ

Introduction

One of the greatest struggles believers face is forgetting who they are in Christ. Many still live as though they are defined by their past, their failures, or the opinions of others. But the gospel gives us a new identity. We are no longer slaves, sinners, or orphans, we are sons and daughters of God, seated with Christ, righteous in Him, and fully accepted. This lesson establishes the believer in their true identity and teaches how to live from it, not strive for it.

Teaching Session

1. Seated With Christ

Ephesians 2:6 (NIV)

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

- Believers share in Christ's resurrection and victory.
 - Our position is not striving on earth but seated with Him in authority.
 - Identity flows from position, not performance.
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2. A New Creation in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

- Believers are not reformed but recreated.
 - The old self, guilt, shame, sin is gone.
 - We now live in a new nature given by Christ.
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3. Righteousness in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Righteousness is not achieved but received.
- We are declared righteous before God, not by works but by grace.

- Our identity is “the righteousness of God,” not “sinner trying to be better.”
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4. Adoption Into God’s Family

Romans 8:15–17 (NIV)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- We are no longer slaves or orphans but children of God.
 - Adoption means belonging, intimacy, and inheritance.
 - Being God’s child comes with privilege and responsibility.
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5. Living From Acceptance, Not For It

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- The believer’s life is rooted in Christ’s love and sacrifice.
 - We no longer live for human approval, but from divine acceptance.
 - Faith anchors us in identity, not performance.
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Study & Discussion Questions

1. How does being “seated with Christ” change the way you see your struggles on earth?
 2. What does it mean to be a “new creation” instead of simply a “changed person”?
 3. Why is it important to know that righteousness is something you *receive* and not *achieve*?
 4. How does adoption into God’s family affect the way you relate to Him as Father?
 5. In what areas of your life are you still striving for acceptance rather than living from it?
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Application & Reflection

- **Memory Verse:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV)

- **Personal Reflection:** Write down labels that others have placed on you (e.g., “failure,” “not enough,” “unworthy”). Then, next to each, write the truth of who God says you are in Christ.
- **Group Activity:** Have each person in the group affirm another member’s identity by sharing a Scripture-based truth about who they are in Christ. End the session with a prayer of thanksgiving for new identity.