

"Your Identity in Christ"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
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INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: Understanding the importance of your “Identity in Christ” as a believer.

Life Group Leader preparation:

2Cor 7:15 – Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

Col 3:10 – And have **put on the new man**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

As we grow in Christ through his word, through life experiences, accomplishments and even disappointments, we can discover that we have an identity with Christ Jesus that will always cause us triumph in Him.

Acts 17:28 – For in Him we live and move and have our being . . .

One of the many ways we identify with Christ is that we call ourselves “Christians”. We are identifying with the person of Jesus Christ.

An important revelation we can get from the Word of God is to understand who we are in Christ. Identifying with Christ will change the way we live and cause us to rise above adversity. Not understanding our identity in Him will keep us living far below our rights and privileges in Christ.

In our everyday lives, we identify with a person, organization, occupation, nationality, or church. We also have an identity in the spirit realm. The scriptures say we have been crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). Not only did we die with Him on the cross at Calvary, we also have been raised with Him. We can see this in the following verses.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV).

What God says about us is found in His Word. Here are some things we are and have in Christ:

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We are new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17).
We are the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).
We've been healed (1 Peter 2:24).
We've been made rich (2 Cor. 8:9).
We are accepted (Eph. 1:6).
We are free from sin (Rom. 6:20–22).

WEEK #1: Identity in Christ: Who Are You Identifying With?

Discussion Question: What does it mean to identify with Christ? It's normal for us to identify with something or someone. It makes us feel connected and gives us a feeling of belonging.

Before we were in Christ, we were destined for death and destruction. Now we are destined for eternal life (1 John 2:25).

Before Christ, we were destined for despair, degradation, and poverty. But in Christ, we are destined to have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

In Christ is where our identity should be. It's in Jesus that we are somebody!

- Do we identify with who and how we were raised?
- How has knowing God and his word changed how you see yourself despite how you were raised?
- Our parents give us an identity, society gives us an identity, test scores give us an identity

Let's be honest – Discussion: Some identify with a profession. They say things like, "I'm a salesman," or "I'm a lawyer." But their profession is not who they are; it's what they do. Others identify with the disease that is attacking their bodies. They say, "I'm a diabetic," "I'm ADD," or "I am bipolar." **Who do you say you are?**

Week #2: Our Identity in Christ – “our position” in Him

Discussion Question: When problems arise do you define yourself by your problem or your position in Christ....?

EPHESIANS 2:4–7 (NKJV)

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
6 and raised us up together, **and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

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7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

According to the WORD, we are seated with Christ in heavenly places. Unfortunately, some of us Christians have an identity crisis. When negative issues or problems come; or **THINGS DON'T LOOK or FEEL** or line up with the WORD, we say what we SEE and FEEL, rather than what **THE WORD OF GOD SAYS** about us. If you don't know who are in Christ or where you are in Christ Jesus; you will identify with the problems that confront you. You will speak the problem or negative condition rather than speaking "I am far above all principality and power and dominion and might and I am seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"

- Ephesians 1:21-22 - Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come: And put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.

You can always tell who and where you identify with by your actions: if you identify with the problem: divorced, bankrupt, sick, depressed and so forth; you will speak and act like the problem.

If you identify with your position or what you have in Christ, you will speak and act accordingly.

NOTE: We are not denying problems exists, instead we are "**acknowledging**" who we are and/what we have in Christ. We **verbally acknowledge** our "identification" with Christ, by agreeing with and saying or "confessing" what God's Word says to us and about us.

- Jesus told his disciples: you shall have what you say – Mark 11:23

When we really understand our identity in Christ—who we are in Him—it changes the way we think and live. Second Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) says, "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*"

The Living Bible says, "When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand-new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!"

Let's be honest - Discussion: - life and death is in the power of the tongue – Prov 8:21.... words spoken to us can frame our identity.....What words have you had to overcome to reshape your identity as a believer

Week #3 – FULFILLING GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

Group Discussion Questions: Has the reality of your being “A new Creation in Christ” changed the direction of your life’s purpose?

If we are used to being led by our senses, our will and emotions, it can be difficult to receive this “new creation image” that we have in Christ.

The Word says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV).

God calls those things that are not as though they were (Rom. 4:17). In the natural realm, what God is calling us may not exist. But in His eyes, it does exist. So, we need to talk about ourselves the same way God does.

We are his workmanship, created for GOOD WORKS – Ephesians 2:10

- Identifying with Christ will inevitably show us God’s plan for our life. It’s a lot easier to “discover” his plan for us when we can identify with Christ: what he has done for you, who you are, what you can now do.
- Now we are ready to fulfill the rest of His plan for your life.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father.” (Romans 8:14-15)

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.”
(2 Timothy 1:7)*

Let’s be honest - Discussion: In your own words describe how your position in Christ affects your life’s purpose

Week #4 – It’s Time for Us to Stand up and Be Who God Says We Are

Group Discussion Questions: What has God said in His Word that will cause us to seek him about his purpose for our life?

Every Christian is called. This doesn’t mean everyone will be in full-time ministry. But with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you can know what he wants you to do and how you should do it.

- John 10:27 – My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
 - Acts 8:26-27 – And the Angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert....and He arose and went....

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- Not only will the Lord show you the direction in which way you are to go; He will also reveal to you His timing and ways. – Proverbs 3:5
- Sometimes, God will give us a vision of what to do, but he needs us to wait for His timing; for our own preparation; remember in Acts 1:8 Jesus told his disciples WAIT for the Holy Spirit....
 - If we get in a hurry we could abort the plan God has for us.... then we must start over and get in his perfect will and timing.

Psalm 18:30 – As for God, his way is perfect.....

<p style="text-align: center;">Don't let the enemy steal your identity.</p>
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SATURATE YOUR MIND WITH THE WORD OF GOD

- We are new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17).
- We are the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21)
- We've been healed (1 Peter 2:24).
- We've been made rich (2 Cor. 8:9).
- We are accepted (Eph. 1:6).
- We are free from sin (Rom. 6:20–22).

We need to let the devil know that we know who we are in Christ.

NOTE:

Life Group Leader Preparation:

Some notes taken from: Kenneth Hagin – “Our Identity in Christ”