

The Identity Series – Accepted in Christ

1. New series of 3 lessons. Neil Anderson's work in the 80s. Built to combat the lies of Satan.
2. Let's review: Satan is a liar and the father of lies. He is the "slanderer" who slanders God to you and you to God. Jesus steps in between to let us know that Satan's lies have no effect on God and that they shouldn't on you.
3. Let's start here: You ARE a child of God. (John 1:12) Some might make a big deal about you having the right to become a child but that doesn't mean you are. You have to earn it... but that makes it not a right. Notice the past tense – this right was already given. As a CHILD of God, you will be viewed by God in a different way – a better way. Your acceptance letter has already arrived.
4. John 15:14-17. Notice what the command is: love one another. If you do, even imperfectly (for we have no other way), you are a FRIEND of Jesus. These men were not spiritual giants and fearless followers... but they were his friends and so are you. (how it feels when one who is popular, strong and powerful calls you their friend)
5. Romans 5:1-2. We have been justified. (the old printer's job, done by computer now) We have been made right, clear and clean. We have no empty spaces, no gaps anymore. And we got there through faith. We STAND in grace. If others want to question you because of their doctrines and traditions, that is up to them. We stand in grace, not in a form of precision obedience that might please them. We are in His grace and no longer in search of their approval.
6. 1st Cor. 6:17 – in the middle of a passage warning Christians not to be sexually immoral, Paul tells them that we are already united to Christ; we are already with Him in Spirit. That is a present gift, a present state of being and, therefore, we should behave accordingly.
7. 1st Cor. 6:19,20. You ARE a temple of the Holy Spirit. You have been bought. You belong to God.

8. **1st Cor. 12:27**. You ARE a part of the body of Christ. This is in the middle of a chapter on gifts and how the body works together so well precisely because it is made up of various, diverse bits and pieces. You don't have to worry that you are just a spleen or an ear or a toe. The body needs you and you are already a part of the body.
9. **Ephesians 1:3-8**. Look at the tenses!!! You are blessed, chosen, adopted, freely given grace, redeemed, forgiven. Remember that these words were written to imperfect people. They would, later in this book, be given direction on raising children, how to be better wives and husbands, told to put off sins of the flesh (chapters 4-5).
10. **Colossians 1:13-14**. Once again, you ARE rescued, redeemed, and forgiven.
11. **Colossians 2:9-10**. You have everything you need. You are complete in Him. The world will line up around the block to tell you what you need, where you lack this or that. God steps up and says you are complete. You're good. He's got you.
12. **Hebrews 4:14-16**. We can boldly approach God's throne because we HAVE that access. Notice that these are people who are approaching to ask for mercy and grace so we are not talking about superhero Christians here. We are talking about people just like us.

In review, you are:

God's child
Jesus' friend
Justified and declared righteous
United with Christ, one with him in Spirit
Bought with a price
A member of Christ's body
Chosen by God, adopted into the family
Redeemed and forgiven
Standing in grace
Complete in Christ
Given access to the throne of God

And in response: live holy lives without shame or fear. Rejoice.