

Identity in Christ – Secure

1. Second in the series. Credit to Neil Anderson for making the list in the 1980s. Not at all a comprehensive list, but it gets the point across.
2. (Asked to join a meeting for the rollout of the New Revised Standard Version in the late 80s. Seated with people who say “once saved, always saved” and found we might be closer than we thought)
3. How secure is your salvation? How secure is your place in God’s family? In many churches, asking the wrong questions, disagreeing on an aspect of doctrine or practice, or having life catch you in a failure and...you’re out. In many families, love is conditional; you have to earn it every day in every interaction. And family is where we get our God concept so...how secure are you?
4. God is the Father you always wanted. Jesus is the big brother you always wanted. The Holy Spirit is the superpower you always wanted. God himself said, “I will give them eternal life and no one will snatch them out of My hand” (**John 10:28-30**). In fact, He says it twice in this one passage!
5. So – who are you going to trust? God and His promises or your own feelings or that whispering in your ear?
6. **Romans 8:1-2**. You are free from condemnation. Many legalists will jump on what they see as qualifiers (for all love, all salvation, to them, must have qualifiers). “If” you are in Christ Jesus. “If” you do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. To do this, to flip what God is telling us, is reprehensible and shows that the speaker has no respect for context: read chapter 7! Paul had sin issues in his life and he was very open about that, yet, he lived in the Spirit and walked in the Spirit and so do we.
7. **Romans 8:28**: God is at work in your life. He does not leave you when you sin or when you fail. There is a T shirt that has become popular recently. It is part of the Moving Forward theme that has shown up in military training for years. The T shirt says “Crawling is acceptable. Falling is acceptable. Puking is acceptable. Crying is acceptable. Pain is acceptable. Quitting is not acceptable.”

8. (story of the two boys, one endlessly negative, the other, endlessly positive – grabs a shovel, “must be a pony”) God is at work. Look for Him and join whatever He is doing.
9. **Romans 8:31-39**. Once again, this chapter appears after a chapter in which Paul confesses a daily struggle with sin...and he says he and all of us are free from condemnation and we CANNOT be separated from the love of God! How very different from the conditional love shown us in our schools, homes, and churches.
10. **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**. God and Christ are the ones who have established, anointed and sealed us and He makes us stand firm in Christ (not our perfection, but His determination).
11. **Colossians 3:1-4**. You have been raised and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Hidden? Yes! He is covering those sins. They will not be brought out and used against you. Love covers a multitude of sins.
12. **Philippians 1:6** – Jesus will finish his work in you. You will not be left abandoned, half built.
13. **Philippians 3:20**: You already are a citizen of heaven.
14. **2nd Timothy 1:7**: You have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. Fear not, for perfect love casts out fear.

You are free from condemnation
God is at work in your life.
No one can separate you from the love of God.
You have been established, anointed and seal by God.
Your life is hidden with Christ in God.
God WILL complete His good work in you.
You are a citizen of heaven.
Fear not for you have been given the Spirit of power, love and a sound
mind.