Who I Am in Christ

Ephesians 1:3-14 / Romans 12:2

3/16/25

One of the first things you were taught as a small child was your name. Your heavenly Father also knows how important your identity is – that’s why He made you a new creation in Him when you received Jesus Christ as your Lord. God desires and intends for you to see yourself as He sees you...valuable. He desires for you to be so united & in agreement with Him that your victorious life will draw many others to Him.

Maybe one of the reasons you may be here this morning living with defeat, discouragement or low self-esteem is because you haven’t totally seen yourself through God’s eyes. You’ve only seen yourself through the mirror of your past; what others have said about you, your own experiences, or lies that the devil has whispered to you, and you have believed those things, rather than to look at yourself through the mirror of God’s Word.

Today, I want to encourage you, I want us to reflect on the profound truth of our identity in Christ. Understanding who we are in Him transforms our lives and empowers us to live out our faith with confidence and purpose. Today, my hope is that before you leave this morning, you’ll know how valuable you are to God, how much we, THROUGH CHRIST, can live in VICTORY, and how to live in that identity from this day forth. Let's explore the Scriptures and discover the incredible blessings and privileges we have as believers.

**Eph. 1:3-14**

*3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.*

*4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.*

*5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

*6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.*

*7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.*

*8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.*

*9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan.*

*10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.*

*11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.*

*12 God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God.*

*13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.*

*14 The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.*

**1. I Am Equipped:** (v3)

In Ephesians 1:3 we learn that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. This all-encompassing statement indicates that every blessing we could possibly need has been given in Christ. Christ came from heaven to earth from the Father to bring us every blessing we need. Paul will go on to describe these blessings in detail in this scripture text. He emphasizes the fact that "every" spiritual blessing has been given, with everything we need to live a godly life and fulfill our calling.

* **Spiritual Resources:**

Being "equipped in Christ" implies having access to God's grace, wisdom, and power to overcome challenges and live a life pleasing to Him.

* **Purpose and Calling:**

It suggests a sense of purpose and a calling to serve God and others, with the understanding that He provides the necessary tools and abilities.

* **For Every Good Work:**

The concept is rooted in biblical passages like 2 Timothy 3:17, which states that Scripture is "God-breathed and is useful to teach, to rebuke, to correct and to train in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work".

* **Armor of God:**

Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the "armor of God," which symbolizes the spiritual protection and strength believers have in Christ, allowing them to stand firm against evil.

* **Equipped for Service:**

The idea of being equipped also ties into the concept of discipleship and training, as seen in Jesus' preparation of His disciples, emphasizing the importance of being prepared for service.

* **God's Workmanship:**

Ephesians 2:10 states that we are "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do".

**Hebrews 13:21:**

"May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ

**2. I Am Chosen:** (v4)

Verse 4 reminds us that we are chosen by God. We are not here by accident; we are part of God's divine plan. He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. As His chosen people, we are set apart for His purposes and have the privilege of being His representatives in the world.

* **1 Peter 2:9**

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

**3. I Am Regarded As:** (v4)

God regards us as His beloved children. We are no longer slaves to sin but regarded as His Children... This embracing gives us a new identity and a new inheritance. We are co-heirs with Christ, sharing in His glory and promises.

* 2 Cor. 6:18

And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty

**4. I Am Adopted:** (v5)

Through Christ, we have received the spirit of adoption. We can call God our Father and experience the intimacy of a loving relationship with Him. This adoption assures us of our place in God's family and the security of His love.

* Galatians 4:4-5

4 But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

**5. I Am Redeemed & Forgiven:** (v7-8)

In Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Our past mistakes and failures no longer define us. We are cleansed, made new, and set free from the bondage of sin. We can walk in the freedom and grace that Christ has provided.

* 1 John 1:9

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

* Colossians 1:13-14

13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

**6. I Am a Recipient:** (v11)

We are recipients of a glorious “inheritance” in heaven. But not just an eternal security, but a love for us which is immeasurable, and grace which is sufficient for every need. As recipients of His grace, we are called to extend that same grace to others, showing love and compassion in all we do and telling them about the opportunity they have be recipients of these things as well as a recipient of Eternal life!

* Eph. 2:8-9

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

* + Salvation is a gift...but we must receive it.
	+ Healing is a gift...but we must receive it.
	+ God’s promises are a gift...but we must receive them.
	+ Holy Ghost power is a gift...but we must receive it.

**7. I Am Secured:** (v13-14)

Our identity in Christ is secure. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit, guaranteeing our inheritance until the day of redemption. This security gives us confidence and hope, knowing that we are forever His.

* Romans 8:38-39

**38**And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A38-39&version=NLT#fen-NLT-28116a)] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. **39**No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?

**Closing:**

So how do I truly accept this truth of who I really am to God? Romans 12:2 shows you how to do this. It says: ***“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think***. ***Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.***”

As you daily feed yourself from God’s Word, He will show you clearly who you are as one who believes in Him. You will begin to see yourself without the mirror of your past, and the lies that you once believed will be replaced by God’s true vision of who you are! It is an awesome miracle that God does in the hearts of those who repent and turn control of their lives over to God and seek Him wholeheartedly.

These verses we’ve seen today are offered to you as a starting place to your freedom. As you read through them, I encourage you to open your Bible and see for yourself what God has written about you. But please don’t stop there. Confess each promise aloud, mix it with faith, and receive the revelation that you ARE who God says you are, and you HAVE what He says you have.

**God’s Words are exceedingly more powerful than the devil’s lies, and you will experience His power to transform your life when you agree with what God says about you!** My prayer for you is that you will live your life “IN CHRIST”, becoming so aware of His love for you and your new and true identity in Him, that you will see yourself through His eyes and reflect His glory to others. Choose to take time today to know and remember who you are in Christ. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal these truths to you, and your life will never be the same!

As we’ve reflected on these truths, let us embrace our identity in Christ with confidence, gratitude, joy and boldness! Let us live out our faith, knowing that we are...

* Equipped by the King of Kings
* Chosen by the Masters Hand
* Regarded by the beloved Father
* Adopted by the One who loved me first
* Redeemed & Forgiven by the Lamb of God
* Recipients of ALL Gods gifts, mercies, and grace,
* and we are Secured in the One who paid for my freedom!

May our lives be a testimony of “Who we are in Christ!