

IDENTIFICATION

One with Jesus

¹¹ **Therefore**, remember that **formerly** you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were **separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship** in Israel and **foreigners to the covenants** of the promise, **without hope and without God** in the world. ¹³ **But now** in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has **made the two groups** one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. **His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two,** thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11–22 NIV

¹⁹ **Consequently**, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building **is joined together** and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are **being built together** to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

One with Jesus - Four Elements:

1	Union	Eph 1:1-14	I am 'In Christ'
2	Participation	Eph 2:1-10	I am 'Raised with Christ'
3	Identification	Eph 2:11-22	I am 'Joined together in Christ'
4	Incorporation	Eph 4:1-16	I am in the 'Body of Christ'

Previously on One in Christ ...

We are first, united in Christ, then participants in God's grace, and then our identity as one body of Christ is established.

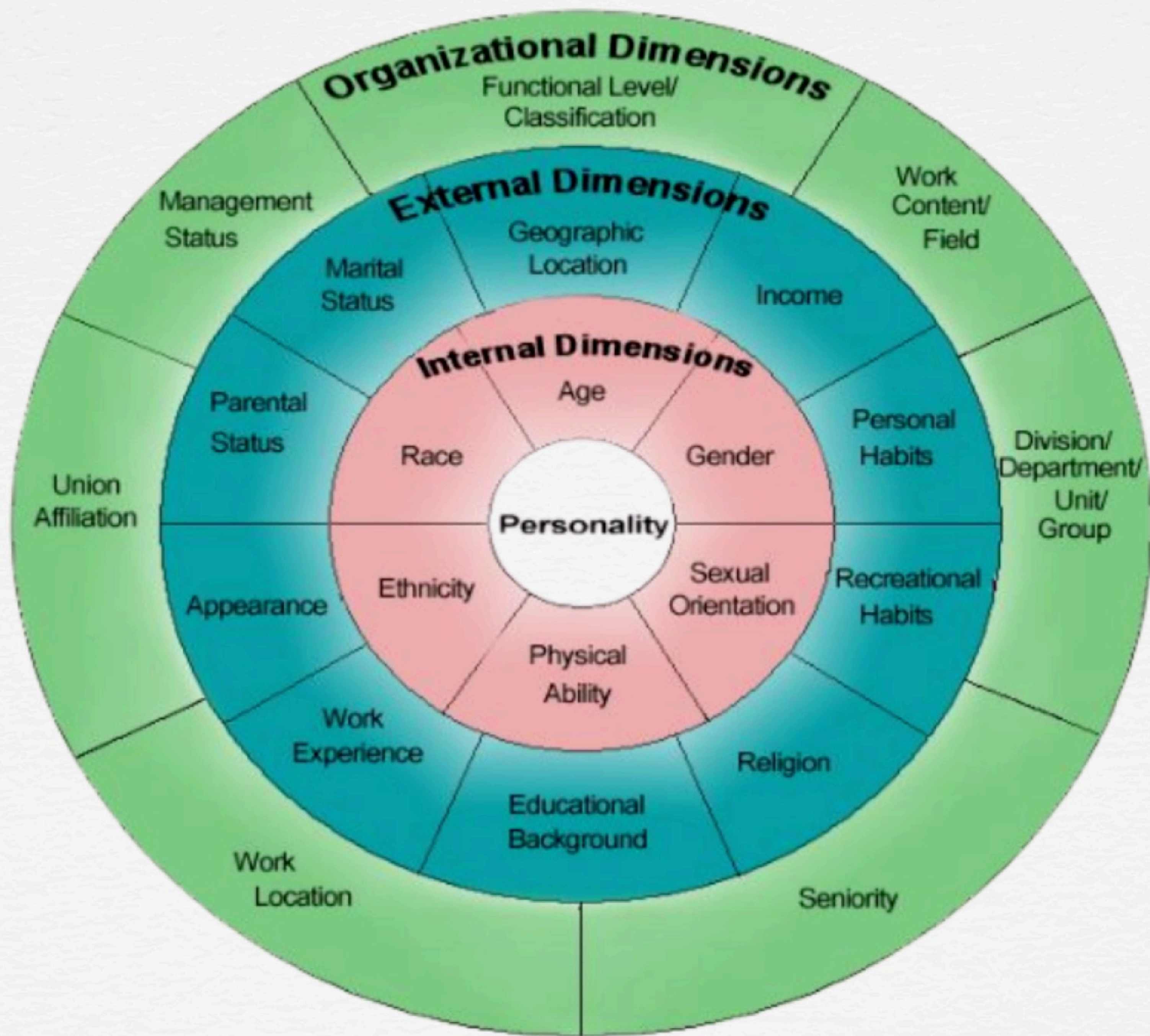
¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Therefore ...

Formerly you were ...

For Paul the key factors were:

- **Religious background (Jew or Gentile)**
- **Social status (Slave or free)**
- **Gender (male or female)**
- **Far away or near to God**

Relationships that were all characterised by hostility



Your old may look like this ...



The Father's promise ...

- Peaceful
- One new humanity
- One body
- Having access to the Father by one Spirit
- No longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizen
- A building, built on a consistent foundation

Two parts – old and new

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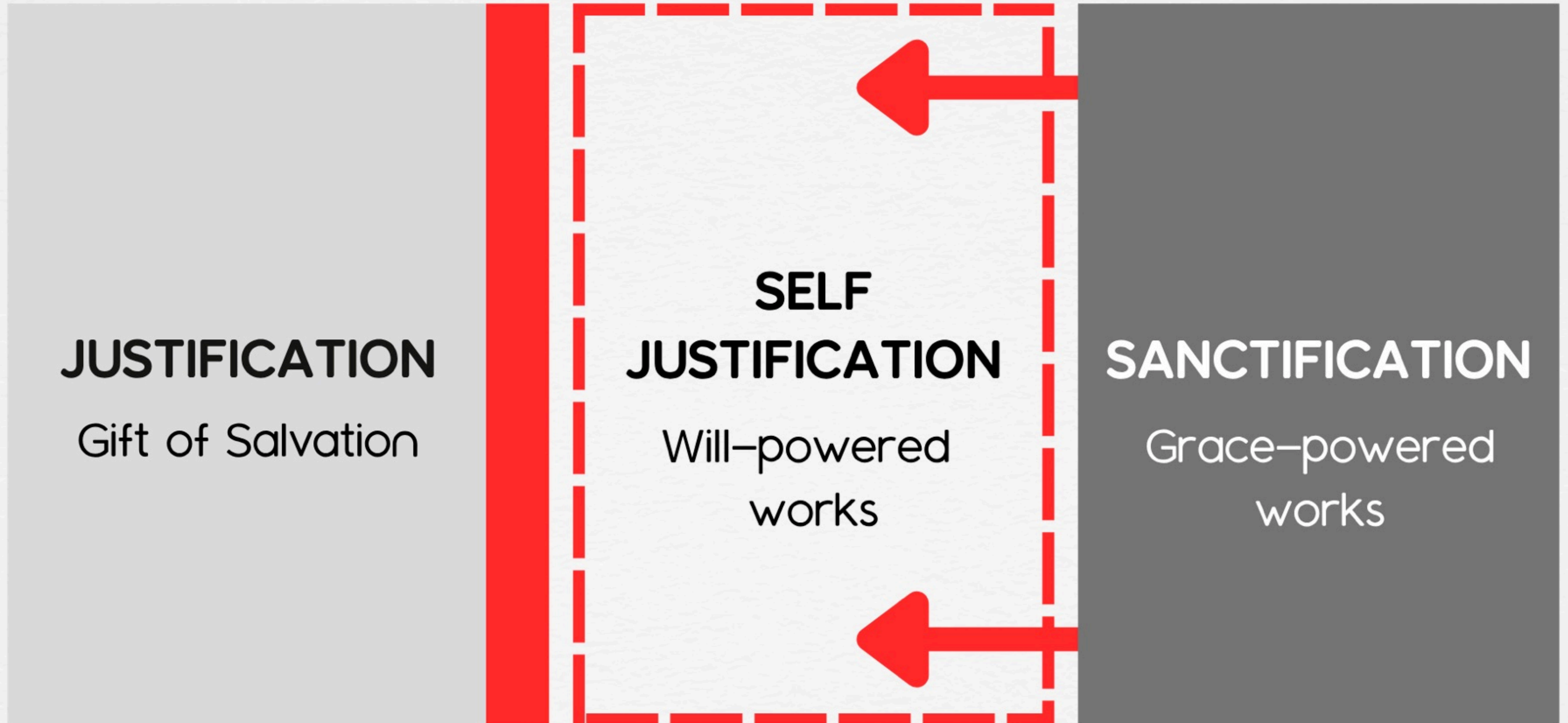
²⁰ built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the **chief cornerstone**.



Identification – Joined together in Christ

²¹ **In him** the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And **in him** you too **are being built together** to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Salvation & Works (Eph 2:8-10)



The already/Not Yet

The whole building is JOINED together
(already), **BUT**


We are BEING BUILT together to BECOME
(not yet)

The already/Not Yet

The dividing walls have been torn down by Christ's death on the cross (already), **BUT** There is still hostility and division within the wider body of Christ.

We choose the reality in which we live.





DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

- 1. How does modern Western society 'divide up' people? What categories does it use to define people?**
- 2. Read Ephesians 2:11- 22, what do these verses tell us about ourselves as individuals? What do they tell us about ourselves, corporately, as Christians?**
- 3. What aspects from your past have shaped your identity in the present? To which 'stories' do you keep referring?**