

# Where is our Identity?

Last week we looked at where our identity lies and we realised that Identity is a real issue today. Many people are not sure of who they are and that's because they have exchanged their God given identity to that of a world centred Identity which revolves around appearance and fame, fortune and fashion.

We recognised that God has given us identity through creating us in His image and in his likeness. God has breathed the living breath (his breath) into our lives and we are people who have a Spirit soul and body all created and stamped with God's personal touch. We are unique in that all our finger prints differ and our eyes (iris) differs. God has given us our personal identity.

Today we are continuing on the same subject because there is so much more to explore as to who we really are.

**1. We have been justified (not guilty) and redeemed (bought back) through Jesus -** *Rom:3:24* tells us that we have been justified freely (without any cost to us) by His grace through redemption that is in Christ. The TLB says, yet now God declares us “not guilty” of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins.

Jesus Christ came to take our punishment for our sin. The Bible declares us not guilty of offending Jesus - how many of us still get offended when someone steps on your toe, says the wrong thing, does the wrong thing even though we have forgiven them and let it go?

**2. The Bible tells that we are not condemned -** *Romans: 8:1-2*. When God calls us not guilty of sin he does not condemn us of it. It is we who often condemn ourselves of the guilt of sin, not God because he has already forgiven us and dealt with our past.

Our lives are renewed and made holy through the blood of Jesus and we do not carry the stigma of sin or condition of sin in our lives. The Bible tells us as far as east is from west so far has God removed our sin that he even remembers it no more but we want to remind ourselves of sin that has been dealt with because we think it is being self righteous or something pious.

The Holy Spirit never **condemns** you He only **convicts** you. In John 16:8 it says ‘*He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment*’

John 3:17 tells us that ‘*Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save the world through him.*’

Our identity comes through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross where he shed his blood cancelling the penalty or charges for sin in our lives and by doing so bought us back from Satan’s domain which was sin and death, to life eternal with Him.

That is what Jesus did which no other Guru or saint or person ever did. *Colossians 1:13-14* For he has rescued us out of the darkness and gloom of Satan’s kingdom and brought us into

*the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who bought our freedom with his blood and forgave us all our sins.*

**3. We are sanctified (made holy) in Jesus Christ (1Cor 1:2),** We are pure and holy in Jesus Christ (1Cor 1:30). How are we made holy? How can anything out of a sinful nature and existence become holy?

People in various religions strive for holiness, to be holy to be pure. Humanly this is not possible. Why? because satan the god of this world rules in us and has the right to keep us in darkness away from seeing the light. After the fall of Adam the very nature of human beings changed from that of holiness to a sinful fallen nature and hence you see so much tragedy and sorrow and pain in this world.

If holiness were that easy to get by doing good deeds and doing penance and doing holy things then majority of society would be holy and do good deeds but we know that humanly it is impossible to remove that sinful nature and the only way that sinful nature can be dealt with is through Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection.

The major difference between religions of the world and Christianity is this: that Jesus freely gave us freedom from sin and the effects of sin and we did not have to pay for it or gain any merits or brownie points to receive it.

*In 1Cor 1:2 it says this, He (God) made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.*

We have a message for people today and it's this.. if you want to lead holy lives then give your life to Jesus, because he gave his life for you, and is able to make you holy and pure through his blood.

I Close with this scripture: 1 Cor 1:30 *For it is from God alone that you have your life through Christ Jesus. He showed us God's plan of salvation; he was the one who made us acceptable to God; he made us pure and holy and gave himself to purchase our salvation.\** Our redemption is a gift. Our justification (declared not guilty), our Sanctification (made holy) is a gift given by God through Jesus Christ and all we have to do is accept it by accepting Jesus into our lives.

Your Identity is in the blood of Jesus Christ which has made you not guilty of sin, made you holy and pure and righteous and acceptable to God. What more do you need?

Prayer: Jesus, forgive me for condemning myself and thinking I am not worthy of your grace and mercy for me. Forgive me for thinking less of me when you have paid it all for me. Forgive me for not accepting your holiness and for not walking in holiness and righteousness.