

Identity In Christ II

Purpose: To understand the importance of knowing who we are in Christ and living in it.

Objectives: By the end of this devotional the student will

1. desire to know the truth of who he/she really is in Christ.
2. understand the importance of choosing to believe the truth and disregard the lies.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

I. Introduction

Make copies of the last two pages to hand out toward the end. Also, have extra blank paper. Arrive to class early to write these words on the board (could also be on an overhead): physical, social, spiritual, significance, security, psychological, material.

You could use the following story adapted for your use or one of your own which relates to introduce the subject:

One day, while playing with other children, a five-year old girl sadly walked back to her father. He asked her what the problem was. She said, "A boy in the play area called me an idiot, and so I don't feel loved." The father reminded her that she was his daughter and that he loved her and always will. She is not an idiot even though someone else may think so. She is also a child of God and very special in God's eyes. She needed to be reminded of who she really was and to disregard the lies.

Similarly, we as Christians must accept and believe our true identity of who we are, fight the enemy with the Sword of the Spirit (Word of God) and assume our true position, responsibility, and identity as a child of the KING OF KINGS and carry on with our Kingdom responsibilities. It's so easy to be hindered in doing what we are supposed to do because the enemy's lies weigh us down.

II. Sources of Our Self-Image

Because you are a child of your parents, you reflect some of their characteristics and carry their name. What are some of the characteristics that you have acquired from your parents?

Allow them time to answer this. You can share with the class how you are like your parents.

In a similar way, we are now children of God. As believers, we reflect His character. We carry His name. We are identified now with Jesus Christ. We share in His life and character. We belong to Him. Our self-image tends to be a product of the messages we have embraced - consciously and subconsciously. Where do the messages come from? *(Allow some to answer. They should mention things like "media, peers, family, etc.")*

According to Ephesians 6:16, I John 2:15,16 and Galatians 5:17, *(you could read the verses)* the world, the flesh and Satan attempt to influence the way that we think. They use the world system

and the people in it. Television, radio, billboards, schoolmates and parents are influential in developing our self-image. Our self-image must instead be based on the truth. Every thought must be taken captive to the obedience of the truth of Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and Romans 12:2.

III. Attacking False Sources

We need to destroy speculations or lies. What speculations or lies does the Evil One most often attack you with? Pull out a piece of paper. Draw a line down the middle. On the left side, evenly spaced down the page, write the following: physical, social, spiritual, significance, security, psychological and material world. For right now, pick out three of these and write out the most common lies that Satan tries to feed you in these areas. The rest of them are for later on.

Allow about three minutes for this exercise.

Now, according to II Corinthians 10:3-5 we destroy speculations with truth. So, based on the truth let us deal with some of these lies. Let's look at some verses that will help us remember who we are in Christ.

You can call on students to read the following verses. You could ask students ahead of time to be ready to read them at the appropriate time.

Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27: Crucified with Christ/Christ lives in me.

Romans 6:4: Buried with Him

Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 3:1: Raised with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenlies

Romans 8:1-2: We are not condemned.

Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1:13: My citizenship is in heaven in Christ's Kingdom

2 Corinthians 5:20: Ambassador for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:21: I have the righteousness of God in Christ

This is a quick overview of our position in Christ. But the real question is this, what does this mean for us day-to-day? Let's go back to that sheet of paper. What truth can we lean upon when we are attacked concerning our physical appearance or abilities?

Allow time for answers. Some verses that can help are Psalm 139:13-16 and Philippians 4:13.

How about attacks against my personhood, the soulish part of me? *Allow answers.*

You should have a ready set of verses to draw upon when the Evil One attacks you in any of these areas. Knowing who you are in Christ and believing it is absolutely necessary in order to live the victorious Christian life. This therefore calls for you to regularly be into God's Word - reading, studying, meditating, memorizing.

Depending upon availability you can give out one or the other of the following material:

Option A: Here are a set of verses which Neil Anderson from Freedom in Christ Ministries has put together on our identity in Christ.

Option B: If there is enough time, have them open to Ephesians Chapters 1 – 3. Have them find verses that shed light on who they are in Christ. Other great sections of Scripture are found in Romans 4-8 and Colossians 2:8-3:4. When time has finished, give them a copy of the page with verses listed from Ephesians 1 – 3.

IV. Conclusion

Adapt the following story or come up with a personal one to close with.

When I was in college, my roommate received a head injury in a flag football game. He lost consciousness for a few seconds, and then continued playing. During the game, he asked me, “Where am I and what am I doing here?” I disregarded his questions, but he asked me again with a strange look on his face. After the game, I took him to a dormitory official to seek his advice in the matter. The official - who was not a Christian - asked what my roommate remembered. My roommate responded, ‘I’m not sure what today’s date is or what’s happening, but I do know that Jesus died for my sins and that I’m a child of God and I’ll spend eternity with God in heaven.’ I had been wanting this official to hear the gospel, and he got it right there. Some of us decided it best we take my roommate to the hospital. His memory seemed to last barely a minute and he continued saying strange things. There was no concussion, but the hospital kept him overnight for observation. The next morning, he was back to normal - but he had no recollection of how he got to the hospital. His memory was blank from when he received his head injury until he woke up the next morning. But through all this, he knew who he was. That’s what we need. Let’s be like this young man and really know who we are. It will change our lives.

Close in prayer. Instructor could ask some to pray, thanking God for who they are in Christ. Then the instructor closes in prayer.

The following verses are taken from Ephesians 1 – 3. They are some basic truths about your identification in Christ that can be used to counteract Satan's lies. Remember, this is your true identification in Christ.

- 1:3 Blessed with **every** spiritual blessing - I'm not lacking.
1:4 **Chosen** before the foundation of the world. God picked me to be on His team!
1:5 Predestined to adoption as **sons**. I'm God's man or lady.
1:6 God's grace **freely** bestowed on me (see 1:8)
1:7 Redemption/forgiveness thru Christ's blood. Enemy says: Some of your sins were too bad for God to forgive. It's a lie.
1:8 His grace **lavished** on me. Over-abundance poured on me.
1:9 The mystery of His will revealed to me. He let me in on His secret!
1:11 I have an **inheritance**. (see 1:13,18)
1:13 **Sealed** in Him with Holy Spirit - down payment/pledge of inheritance.
1:18 I have a **rich** inheritance. There's nothing here that can compare. "Eye has not seen..."
1:19 His **surpassing great** power toward me.
2:1,3 **WAS** a child of wrath; dead in my sins.
2:4 God's love toward me is **great**. I must be pretty special.
2:5 Made **alive** together with Christ
2:6 **Raised up** with Christ and **seated** with Christ in the heavenly places.
2:7 I am a trophy of God's grace.
2:8 I'm a recipient of the gift of God.
2:10 I am God's **workmanship**.
2:12 **WAS** separate from Christ, stranger to covenants, no hope, no God.
2:13 **BUT** now brought near to Christ and promises and covenants.
2:18 I have **access** to the Father through Christ.
2:19 I'm a fellow citizen with the saints and I'm of God's **household**.
2:21 I'm growing into a **holy temple** in the Lord. v.22 a dwelling of God.
3:6 I'm a fellow **heir** and fellow **member** of the body and a fellow **partaker** of the promise in Christ.
3:12 I have **bold** and **confident access** to the Father because of what Christ has done.
3:20 God is able to do **exceeding abundantly beyond** all that I ask or think.

(Close in prayer. Could ask some to pray - thanking God for who they are in Christ. Then you close.)

“Understanding your identity in Christ is absolutely essential to your success at living the victorious Christian life!”

Who am I?

I am accepted *because...*

John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
Rom. 5:1	I have been Justified.
I Cor.6:17	I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with Him.
I Cor. 6:19-20	I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.
I Cor. 12:27	I am a member of Christ's body.
Eph. 1:1	I am a saint
Eph. 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child.
Eph. 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit
Col. 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
Col. 2:10	I am complete in Christ

I am secure *because...*

Rom. 8:1-2	I am free forever from condemnation.
Rom. 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good.
Rom. 8:31-34	I am free from any condemning charges against me.
Rom. 8:35-39	I cannot be separated from the love of God.
2 Cor. 1:21-22	I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God.
Col. 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
Phil. 1:6	I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.
Phil. 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven.
2 Tim. 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.
Heb. 4:16	I can find grace and mercy in time of need.
I John 5:18	I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me.

I am *significant because...*

Matt 5:13-14	I am the salt and light of the earth.
John 15:1,5	I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ's.
I Cor. 3:16	I am God's temple.
2 Cor. 5:17-21	I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
2 Cor. 6:1	I am God's co-worker (I Cor. 3:9).
Eph. 2:6	I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.
Eph. 2:10	I am God's workmanship.
Eph. 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Phil. 4:13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

(From “Living Free In Christ” by Dr. Neil Anderson)

“The more you reaffirm who you are in Christ, the more your behavior will begin to reflect your true Identity!”
(From"Victory Over the Darkness” by Dr. Neil Anderson)

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