

What is Your Identity?

Exploring what the Bible has to
say about Your Identity

Session 4

Adoption

1

Our Former Identity

We have looked at the conflict of identity within ourselves and society, reviewed some of the attributes of God, and the nature of man.

After the fall, our essence was marred and distorted because of our sin. We were cut off from God, His covenant, His people, His promises, His inheritance, and any real purpose (Ephesians 2:12).

1 Peter 1:18 refers to our lives without Christ as “aimless conduct” taught by the traditions (values & philosophy) of this fallen world.

2

Adopted!

Picture with me a child born in a foreign country. Born into absolute poverty, dirty, hungry, unloved, and unwanted. Their daily routine was just trying to survive. What would be their hope and future?

What would happen if a family with means and resources made a choice to love and adopt that child. At that moment everything would change. They would have a new family, purpose, and future.

This child is you! As a believer, you have been adopted into the family of God!

3

Adopted!

Ephesians 1:2-7

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

HOMEWORK: Read Ephesians 1 everyday this week. Write down the the things that God has done for you though Jesus. Make it personal, "God chose _____!"

4

Chosen!

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. ²⁷ But God has **chosen** the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has **chosen** the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has **chosen**, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence. ³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— ³¹ that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

5

Chosen!

Let's go back to our adopted child. He was chosen for adopted by his new family. He did not earn this privilege, but it was based solely by the grace of his new family. They chose him! They chose to love him! They chose to provide for his needs.

There will be trials in their new relationship. There will be difficulty and adjustment. The child will need to learn to accept this new relationship and accept the love being offered him.

The same is true for us. As the verses we just read, we were not chosen because we are awesome, but because **God chose** to place His boundless love upon us. That love is greater than our sin. There is **NOTHING** that can separate the believer from the Love of God (Romans 8:31-39).

6

No Longer Condemned!

Before you placed your faith in Jesus for salvation, you were under the condemnation of your sin. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's expectations (Romans 3:23). Romans 6:23 states that we were under the penalty of sin and its consequence. The wages (the consequences) of our sin is death (eternal separation from God and all that is good).

There was nothing we could do to remove the stain of sin from our lives. To do good is only to return to God's expectations for us. It does not remove our guilt.

If we are to have our relationship with God restored, it must be on His terms. He must be the one who deals with that which separates us from Him – our sin.

7

No Longer Condemned!

Romans 5:6-11

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

8

No Longer Condemned!

Romans 8:1-2.

There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me **free from the law of sin and death**.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. We are free from sin and its consequences. Jesus paid it ALL, and we owe Him EVERYTHING!

9

No Longer Separated!

Romans 8:37-39

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

10

I Am His Workmanship

You do not work for God's favor; you work from God's favor!

God created man to do His work. Adam and Eve were God's workmanship. That was marred by sin, but God is not done. As believers, God is transforming us into something beautiful – the Image of Christ.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The word “workmanship” is the Greek word Poiema from which we get the word poetry. You are God's masterpiece.

11

So What ...

We tend to see ourselves in the light of this world. We see our joys and achievements, but we also carry the weight of our failures.

God sees us from the light of eternity. He loved you from before the foundation of the world. He purchased you with His blood so He could adopt you into His family.

You are loved with the same eternal love that exists between the members of the Trinity.

Take a moment this week and think about all that He has done for you. Then let us dedicate ourselves to work together and do His work and will to impact the world through Him.

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