

Part 2: “Every Ship Has a Name”

BIG IDEA

As followers of Christ, we have received a new identity to grow in and live out.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

[2 Corinthians 5:17 \(NIV\)](#) – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

OPTIONAL VIDEO RESOURCE

In this optional video Jo Saxton discusses building your identity on you true child-of-God self.

- View on RightNow Media* - [The Dream of You: SESSION 1 What Is God's Name for You?](#)

ICEBREAKER

- 1. If you could be absolutely any kind of person, which would want to be? (e.g. billionaire, super-parent, guru, celebrity, philanthropist, influencer, etc.)**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHRIST GIVES US A NEW IDENTITY

- 2. When someone asks, “Who are you?” what do you tell them?**

Many of the things that we use to describe ourselves have to do with our roles, but there is a core identity that we have been given as followers of Jesus that is not related to what we do.

* If you do not yet have a login for RightNow Media, please use this link to join under our Church of the Rock subscription: [Rightnow Media Login Request](#).

3. Consider these questions as you read the following scriptures about identity: What sticks out to you? What surprised you? What was new to you? Which one resonates with you right now?

- a. **We are Forgiven.** *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ([Ephesians 4:32 NIV](#))*
- b. **We are valuable.** *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. ([Ephesians 2:10 NLT](#))*
- c. **We are victorious.** *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ([Romans 8:37 NIV](#))*
- d. **We are gifted.** *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ([1 Peter 4:10 NIV](#))*
- e. **We are saved.** *Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. ([John 5:24 NIV](#))*
- f. **We are God's adopted children.** *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will... ([Ephesians 1:4-5 NIV](#))*
- g. **We are justified.** *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ([Romans 5:1 NIV](#))*

What sticks out to you? What surprised you? What was new to you? Which one resonates with you right now?

4. Where have you noticed that you are still influenced by who you used to be or how you thought of yourself? (e.g. visiting old stomping grounds or being around certain people, thought-patterns or behaviours that you revert to, voice from the past saying you're not good enough) **How can you remind yourself of your new identity when these things come up?**

GROWING IN YOUR NEW IDENTITY

Zacchaeus was chief tax collector, dishonest and unloved by society. He sought out Jesus and Jesus called him out and declared his new identity.

Luke 19:1–10 (NIV) – *Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.*

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

5. What changed internally for Zacchaeus after received his new identity? How was he now able to be generous? What new beliefs did he now have?

6. As you learn more about who you are in Christ, how do you apply this to daily life situations? For instance, what aspects of who you are in Christ are helpful...

- when you feel devalued at work or school?
- when there is conflict with your family/friends?
- when you feel unable to achieve your goals?
- when you experience discouragement or anxiety?

KNOW WHO YOU ARE TO KNOW WHAT TO DO

The story of the prodigal son ([Luke 15:11-32](#)) highlights how we can be susceptible to focusing on doing good without having the heart of relational identity (like the older brother in the parable).

7. Why are we susceptible to finding our value/standing before God in “doing rather than being,” like the older brother?

Consider this quote from Timothy Keller:

We love to be our own saviors. Our hearts love to manufacture glory for themselves. So we find messages of self-salvation extremely attractive, whether they are religious (*Keep these rules and you earn eternal blessing*) or secular (*Grab hold of these things and you’ll experience blessing now*).[†]

[†] Timothy Keller, *Galatians For You* (The Good Book Company, 2013), p. 17.

8. Where in your life have you tried to “save yourself” rather than relying on God?

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) *For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

9. Our identity comes first, before our good works. Discuss some examples of how we can know what to do BECAUSE of the new identity God has given us (e.g. loving our neighbour because we are loved by God).

10. Share stories where you have trusted your identity in Christ and that gave you the ability to do something that you were not able to do before, something that was not in your old nature? (e.g. Zacchaeus could now live generously)

ACTIVATION

Speak these words over each other. Notice how it makes you feel. What might you need to bring to Jesus to help you live out?

- “ _____ , you are God’s masterpiece.”
- “ _____ , you are forgiven.”
- “ _____ , you are valuable.”
- “ _____ , you are victorious.”
- “ _____ , you are gifted.”
- “ _____ , you are saved.”
- “ _____ , you are God’s adopted child.”
- “ _____ , you are justified.”

THIS WEEK

Meditate on the amazing truths of who we are in Christ.

- I am loved. ([1 John 3:1](#))
- I am accepted. ([Ephesians 1:6](#))
- I am a child of God. ([John 1:12](#))
- I am Jesus' friend. ([John 15:14](#))
- I am a joint heir with Jesus, sharing His inheritance with Him. ([Romans 8:17](#))
- I am united with God and one spirit with Him. ([1 Corinthians 6:17](#))
- I am a temple of God. His Spirit and His life lives in me. ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#))
- I am a member of Christ's body. ([1 Corinthians 12:27](#))
- I am a Saint. ([Ephesians 1:1](#))
- I am redeemed and forgiven. ([Colossians 1:14](#))
- I am complete in Jesus Christ. ([Colossians 2:10](#))
- I am free from condemnation. ([Romans 8:1](#))
- I am a new creation because I am in Christ. ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))
- I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. ([Colossians 3:12](#))
- I am established, anointed, and sealed by God. ([2 Corinthians 1:21](#))
- I do not have a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind. ([2 Timothy 1:7](#))
- I am God's co-worker. ([2 Corinthians 6:1](#))
- I am seated in heavenly places with Christ. ([Ephesians 2:6](#))
- I have direct access to God. ([Ephesians 2:18](#))
- I am chosen to bear fruit. ([John 15:16](#))
- I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house. ([1 Peter 2:5](#))
- I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God by which I share His nature. ([2 Peter 1:4](#))
- I can always know the presence of God because He never leaves me. ([Hebrews 13:5](#))
- God works in me to help me do the things He wants me to do. ([Philippians 2:13](#))
- I can ask God for wisdom and He will give me what I need. ([James 1:5](#))