



Identity Theft

Don't raise your hand, but have you ever been a victim of identity theft? We live in a world where you have to do everything you can to protect your identity from theft. We spend any money to get our identity in order. This is not only true in the natural, but it is also true in the spiritual realm as well.

I heard a story of two young men got lost and they were trying to find direction to where they were supposed to be going. Looking down their way, they saw a decorated army General coming down; they asked him if he knew where they were.

The General asked, *"Do you know who I am?"* They looked at each other and said, *"We are in trouble, we don't know where we are, and this man doesn't know who he is."*

- One of the most important aspects of our Christian life is to know who we are. Not knowing who you are is worse than not knowing where you are.

Therefore, for us to know our **new and true identity** we have to know what took place and where it **took place**. Where did the change occur?

It did not take place in your physical realm. It did not take place in your soul—emotions, personality, mental (mind), and thoughts.

Main text: 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

- a) Once a person is born again, he instantly gets new identity—A new identity card.
 - i) A new ID of a believer reveals an identity totally contrary to what most people think.
- b) Any man—including everyone who has said received the Lord in their hearts as their personal Lord and savior.
 - i) This man or woman, while they may look the same physically, they are BRAND SPARKLING NEW!
 - o They are not the same person spiritually. This passage is speaking in spiritual reality and context, not the physical. Someone is NEW.
 - ii) The Old has passed away (died), and All things have become NEW.
- c) Our identity is one of the most crucial things we have in the physical world and in the spiritual world. We can't neglect it.
- d) When Adam and Eve sinned, they experienced identity theft. Satan deceived them and stole their identity.
 - i) If you allow the enemy to lie to you and/or steal your identity or even confuse you of your true identity,
 - o You will be defeated. **Knowing who you are in Christ is key to walking in victory.**
 - o You will lose out on what God has in store for you
 - o You will struggle in pretty much everything. Our identity is vital in winning.
 - o We act poorly, mainly because we don't know who we are.

- If Adam and Even know who they were, whose they were, and what they had access to besides the forbidden tree, they would have resisted the lies of the devil.

Identity crisis:

- a) Men identifying as women and vice versa.
- i) If we truly know our identity, we won't be having any identity crisis. Many things that the world tries to say about us need to be rejected because it is saying something contrary to who we are.

The TRAP

- a) One common trap almost all believers fall into is not knowing:
 - i) Who they are
 - ii) Whose they are
 - iii) What they have on the inside of them
- b) They do not know who they are.

Your identity is not:

- a) What you do or have done.
- i) You are not a sinner, if you are born again (Romans 5:6-11).

- ii) While you sin, you are not a sinner (Romans 3:23). Ephesians 2:3 *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.** (Past tense)*
- iii) While you were once a sinner, you are no longer a sinner once you accept Christ as your Savior. You are sanctified—hence **Saint**.
 - o 1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
 - o 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
- iv) If you see yourself as a sinner, you not only violate the Word, you also will sin rampantly because as you see yourself, so will you act. As you think of yourself to be so will be. As a man thinks in his heart so is he (Proverbs 23:7).
- b) Your job, position, profession – Mechanic, Doctor, Professor, Captain, General, Engineer etc.
 - i) While all these are great, they are not who you are—if you are a born again believer.
 - ii) You need to separate who you are from what we do.
- c) Family heritage

- i) I'm of the first family or this family. Etc. Praise the Lord, but in Christ you have no high ground.
- d) Tribe (Which tribe is better?)
- i) The tribe of Judah is better. The Tribe of God. Dealing with people based on their tribe (tribalism) or thinking your tribe is superior to other's is simply carnal. You do not know who you are in Christ. God does not see you based on your tribe but based on your position in Christ.
- e) Sex—Male or Female
- i) Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - ii) No, you're not gay. You cannot be a child of God and be gay. You are not gay! That is not who you are. Why are you gay?
- f) Skin color (Black, White, or even lighter skin).
- i) In the black communities, like here in Africa, some think they are better than others because they are light skinned.
 - ii) Then the darker ones have been brainwashed to think they need to be lighter and have gone on a journey of bleaching their skin to get lighter. You are not your skin color.
- 2 Corinthians 5:16 Wherefore henceforth **know we no man after the flesh**: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.
- g) Country of origin

I'm an American, I'm Jewish. So what? That is not who you are.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

h) Achievements or success

i) Physical looks and beauty

i) A person's physical attraction, looks, or beauty is not who they are. It is not your identity, and you should not wrap your identity in your looks.

o Physical beauty is awesome, but it fades. It is temporary. If you do not make the necessary adjustment, you will fall apart once something negative happens to your physical looks or beauty.

THE REAL YOU

It's important to understand the real you. Some believe and others even teach that we are "a soul with a body." They do not acknowledge the Spirit.

The Word of God shows that we are a **Spirit** being with a **Soul**, living in a **Physical body**.

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Underline mine).

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Emphasis mine)

These passages reveal that we are not just a sou with a body, but also with a spirit. In other words, yo are three part-being.

Soul

- a) The soul is what most people call the **"real them."**
- b) We are not our soul like many other religions teach such as Buddhism, Hinduism, on and on the list goes. This is not the real us. We should not wrap ourselves in our soul as our true identity.
- c) Whether we feel it or not, we have a soul, and it can be touched not physically but with words and emotionally.
- d) **Our soul is Mind, Will, and Emotions or what many people refer to as the personality.**

Spirit

- a) This is the part of us that was changed and is new after salvation (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is the **"real you"** and it's the life-giving part.
- b) (James 2:26)—the body without the spirit is dead. It is the spirit that breathes life into our physical bodies. It is where life comes from.

- c) In Genesis 2:7, God created Adam and Eve. Adam's body was complete but lifeless until God breathed into him the breath of life.
 - i) The word "**Breathe**" in OT the same word we use for breath, and it is translated "**spirit**" in other places.
 - ii) Adam had a body and soul but was not a living soul until that breath (**Spirit**) from God.
- d) Before salvation (the born-again experience), **our spirit man was dead**. He was separated from God because of sins and trespasses (Ephesians 2:1).
 - i) Although **we were alive physically** before we got born again (saved), **we were dead spirituality**. We were dead men walking. Our spirit man was separated from God because of sin.
 - ii) The word "**dead**" is speaking spiritually, not physically.
 - o Genesis 2:17 says, "**thou shalt surely die.**"
 - o This was not speaking physically but spiritually because they continued to live physically. The man became spiritually separated from God (dead) and His supernatural power and began to degenerate.
 - iii) Did you know that: **Death in the bible doesn't mean ceasing to exist as some think today**. It means "**separation**". Jesus yielded or gave up to the Ghost (Spirit) at the cross as soon as He died. Death separation of the spirit from the body.

When a person dies, he doesn't cease to exist but either goes:

- Goes in the presence of God.

OR

- Goes in the presence of hell.

e) Matthew 10:28. "And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

i) Murder or death is killing of just 1/3 of you—the body. 2/3rds of you is living on.

f) When a person comes to the Lord, they are born again (John 3:5) and receive a new spirit—not a new soul or new body. Galatians 4:6 says we receive the spirit of Christ.

i) GOD PLACED/PLACES HIS SPIRIT INSIDE OF US, and we now have a new quality life, a new identity, and are a new person in our spirits.

ii) Now, the rest of the Christian life is not trying to make our spirits better because they are, but we are **learning and** teaching our **Soul (Mind, Will, and Emotions) what has taken place in our spirit.**

- A third (1/3) is for your spirit.

Your salvation is over and complete in regard to your spirit when you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord.

Romans 8:18 "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

- A third (1/3) is for our soul.

- 1 Cor 13:9 "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part."
- A third (1/3) is for our body
 - 1 Cor 15:51-54 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

Therefore, if we renew our minds, we agree and yield to our spirits. Then, spirit and soul will form a majority of 2/3 (two-thirds), and it will release the power of God in our physical body. It will become 2 Versus 1.

- g) You can't be **born-again, again** because your spirit is/was completely changed.
 - i) It is the exact spirit you will have throughout eternity (Romans 8:18).
 - ii) There is no inadequacy in it. You are a brand-new person but until you get the knowledge (renew your mind) you won't change in your soul and physical body.
 - iii) You must look in the mirror of God's word, see who it says you are in your brand-new spirit, what God has done, and begin to believe it and in return, you will experience victory in Christian life. Just as we have a physical mirror, God's word is our spiritual mirror.
 - iv) In Ephesians 4:24, the new man it talks about is our new born-again spirit.

- He is created in righteousness and true Holiness.
- He doesn't become Holy and righteous; he was created that way.

Your New identity in Christ = Who You are in Christ (In the Spirit)

In other words, to know who you are in Christ it happens by knowing who you are in the Spirit, because who you are in the spirit is your new identity in Christ.

1. Sons of God and Children of God

- a) John 1:12
- b) Romans 8:16-17
- c) Galatians 3:26
- d) 1 John 4:4

2. One spirit with the Lord

- a) 1 Corinthians 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.
 - i) How is a person joined to the Lord? This happens through believing in Jesus and becoming born again. When a person does this, He receives a brand-new spirit that is one with the Lord. When a person believes on the Lord, that person enters a spiritual union with Him.
 - ii) Our new born-again spirit is identical to the Lord's Spirit. It is in our Spirit man that we are one with Him, not in our body or soul.

b) 1 John 4:17 "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

i) Notice that not in the world to come, but in this world.

3. He cannot sin

a) 1 John 3:6, 9 "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

b) Your mental-emotional part and actions come short (sin) but not your spirit. It is impossible for him to sin.

4. Sealed such that no impurities can penetrate.

a) Ephesians 1:13 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"

b) 2 Corinthians 1:22 "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest [guarantee] of the Spirit in our hearts." (Brackets mine)

i) This sealing is such as sealing a jar with paraffin to stop any impurities from penetrating the jar. Our new spirit man has been sealed.

5. Created righteousness and true holiness.

a) Ephesians 4:24 "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

a) Our New spirit was not resuscitated. He was created. He is a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17). He was created in righteousness and true holiness. He does not become righteous overtime. He is already righteous. He does not become holy. He is already truly holy.

b) Righteousness in the eyes of God is not what you do, but who you are. Righteousness does not come by doing. It comes by believing. On the inside of you, you are as righteous as you will ever be. Your new man is righteous and truly holy.

6. New creature

a) New Creature—(KJV Bible), Creation—(AMP, NIV & ISV), New World—(BBE), New person—(NLT & CEV), New being—(GNB), Created a new—(MSG), A brand new person inside (LTB).

b) 2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

i) The old man (unborn again spirit) has passed away (dead). All things have become new.

7. Wisdom, righteous, sanctified and redeemed

- a) 1 Cor 1:30 "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:"

8. Eternally redeemed, not momentarily or temporarily, but eternally.

- a) Hebrews 9:12 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

9. Full of the fullness of God.

- a) John 1:16 "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."
- i) Our new spirit man is full of the presence of God.

10. Anointed

- a) 2 Cor 1:21 "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;"
- b) 1 John 2:27 "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."
- i) Our New Spirit man is anointed, and that anointing abides in us.

11. Complete in Him

- a) Col 2:10 "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"

- i) There is no inadequacy in Him (Jesus), and we have been given all it takes to live a victorious Christian life in this life.

- a) 2 Peter 1:3 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"

12. Always willing

- a) Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- i) He is ever willing and strong. He is never weak.

13. Perfected forever

- a) Hebrews 10:14 "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

- i) Our new spirit man is forever perfect and perfected. Thank You, Jesus.

14. Spirits of just men made perfect.

- a) Hebrews 12:23 "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"

- i) Whoever has believed and received the Lord Jesus has been justified. He is just. His spirit has been made perfect.

15. Partaker of the divine nature

a) 2Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

i) Our spirit man is a partaker of the divine nature of God.

16. Knows all things and has the Mind of Christ

a) 1 Corinthians 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ."

17. We have the same power that rose Jesus from the dead living on the inside of us (in our new spirit man).

a) Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

b) Ephesians 1:19-20 "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,"

Summary of who you are and have in Christ in Chapters 1-3:

- Children of God (Romans 8:14, 16; John 1:12)
- **Blessed** with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.
- **Chosen** before the foundations of the earth.
- **Predestined** unto the adoption of children.
- **Sealed** with the Holy Spirit of Promise.

- **Quickened** together with Christ
- **Raised us up with Him**
- **Sitted** with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
- **Loved** us with His great love.
- **Saved** us by Grace through faith
- Made nigh by the blood of Jesus.
- Made us both one (Gentiles and Jews) by breaking down the middle wall of partition
- He is our peace and has **reconciled** us unto God.
- **Made a new man**
- **No more strangers,**
- **No more foreigners**
- **Fellow citizens with the saints** and of the household of God.

Summary of what you have in Christ — Chapters 1-3:

- 1) Fruit of the spirit
 - a) Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
- 2) Have been given the riches of His grace.
- 3) He has abounded unto us all wisdom and prudence.
- 4) **Blessed** with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.
- 5) You have redemption
- 6) Have obtained an inheritance.
- 7) He is our peace and has **reconciled** us unto God.
- 8) Made known unto us the mystery of His will.
- 9) We **have access** by one Spirit unto the Father.
- 10) Have forgiveness of Sins (**forgiven**)

Conclusion:

- a) Because who we are in the spirit is identical to the Lord and have the same power on the inside of us like Himself, we can and should be seeing similar results as Him and greater (John 14:12).
- b) We must worship, fellowship with the Lord based on who we are in our spirit, not in the physical flesh nor emotions.
 - i) John 4:24 says "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."
 - ii) Worship that flows and comes from your spirit is true worship. It's the best form of worship we can offer God.
- c) How could a sinful man have fellowship with a Holy God?
 - i) This is only possible on a spiritual level—from our newborn-again spirit that is sinless, holy, and righteous. That's how we relate to Him—Spirit to Spirit and heart to heart (1 Sam 16:7).
- d) This understanding also explains how we can and should easily love one another. If we can look beyond the body and soul which have shortcomings and look straight to their spirit man that is pure, sinless, holy, and righteous.
- e) It also explains why God never leaves us. We are one spirit with Him.
- f) It also explains how we can come before God boldly without fear (Hebrews 4:16).
 - i) **You have to stand in the identity of who you are in Christ.**

A Christian's true identity, and all potential lives in the spirit. The born-again spirit is the true identity of the believer and it's how God sees us. That's who we are!