

WORTHY

embracing your identity in Christ

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WEEK ONE

child



IT'S IMPORTANT FOR

OUR IDENTITY TO BE ROOTED

IN THE RIGHT THING.

Union with Christ

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

What defines you? Take a moment to think about the different titles that characterize your sense of self. Many of us may consider our relational status, skills, or work. For example, you might have answered this question with phrases like “I am a mother,” “I am an artist,” or “I am a restaurant hostess.” Identity can be rooted in many things, but it is important for our identity to be rooted in the right thing. Knowing who we are shapes our character, values, and how we navigate the world. An improper understanding of our identity can distort our worldview and lead us to behave contrary to the way we were designed.

To understand what defines us, we must look to our designer. God, the Maker of heaven and earth, is our Creator, and He has given us a name. He knows us intimately. We must read God’s Word, the Bible, to discover our true selves. The pages of Scripture direct us to our union with Jesus Christ as the source of our identity. Christ’s saving work is the solid ground on which we know who we are and for what we were made. In this study, we will walk through selected verses that highlight the titles we have in Christ and discover how these titles impact our life’s journey for God’s glory.

“Union with Christ” is a theological phrase that describes our relationship with Jesus. Through our faith in Him, we are so closely bound to Him that whatever can be said of Jesus’s character can also be said of us. But what does this mean? This means that though we are imperfect, if we have recognized Christ as our Lord and Savior, the Father sees the perfection of Jesus when He looks at us. The righteousness of Christ is placed on us through our faith in Him because of His death on the cross. Jesus’s identity becomes our identity. As Lord and Savior, He alone defines our sense of self because He alone redeemed us from our sin and disobedience to God.

As fallen sinners, we do not have the moral strength to obtain a righteous identity on our own, though we try. Instead, we inevitably follow the way of our first parents, Adam and Eve. As Scripture tells us in Genesis 1–2, Adam and Eve originally bore their true identity. In a harmonious relationship with God, they reflected His image and His name.



However, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's Word and took on a different name: "children under wrath" (Ephesians 2:3). They listened to spiritual evil and their rebellious hearts. As a result, sin damaged their identity. We, too, have sinful natures inherited from Adam and Eve, and we, too, were once guilty in the Lord's sight. Ephesians 2:1–3 tells us that we were so disobedient that we were considered dead in sin — unable to please God and save ourselves. Disobedience corrupts our identities and leaves us wondering who we are.

Instead of looking to God, we search our sinful hearts and turn to insufficient avenues for answers. For instance, we tend to trust in our inner attitudes for guidance. *Surely our thoughts, feelings, and passions will tell us what to do*, we may think. Or perhaps we look to the world around us. We may ask ourselves, *What does culture or our roles in society claim that we are?* But, when circumstances change, our inner and outer influences also change. What happens to our identities when we suffer loss, unemployment, or disability?

Our sense of self becomes shaky when the feelings, desires, or people that once defined us are no longer there. We fall apart when pursuits or occupations disappoint and leave us unsatisfied. Instability cannot serve as the foundation of who we are. Therefore, we must seek answers from the unchanging and all-satisfying God. He

has loved us despite our sin and sent Jesus Christ to make us alive in Him (Ephesians 2:4–5).

Jesus has moved us from being dead in sin to alive in Him through the Holy Spirit's application of Jesus's saving work. Jesus lived an obedient life, died on the cross as the penalty for our crimes, and rose from the grave in victory over spiritual evil. The Holy Spirit gives us faith to trust in this work. Through faith, the Spirit of Jesus takes residence inside us (1 Corinthians 6:17). We become united to Him.

As we are one with Christ, His righteousness, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection become ours. In Jesus, we are covered in His obedience. Through His Spirit, we have died to sin and have risen with new life (Romans 8:10). We now experience God's forgiveness and reconciliation. With this new life, we can know our true identity. As we come to a deeper awareness of Jesus and the depths He went to for us, we come to a better understanding of who we are. We also receive the ability to live out His identity — to live as we were created. And we do not walk alone. God is with us.

The Spirit of Jesus will not change with circumstances like our inner and outer influences. He never leaves; the impact of His saving work never fades. We must trust in Christ for salvation, for only in Him is our corrupted identity redefined. If you have not placed your faith in Jesus, will you hope in Him to receive the blessing of His union?

Christ's saving work

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WHO WE ARE AND FOR WHAT WE WERE MADE.

