

## The True You: Finding Your Identity in Him

Scripture Text: II Corinthians 5:16-19

It is of the utmost imperative that we know both find and know our true identity.

James equates hearing but not doing to a man that sees what he really looks like then forgetting it immediately after leaving the mirror – James 1:22-23.

Honestly, we need to see us as our true self in order to behold the glory of the Lord – II Corinthians 3:18.

### What is the true you?

#### I. Not After the Flesh – v. 16

- A. Not talking about literal flesh – we are all this! Talking about worldly things/
  - 1. Romans 5:5-8 (9-10) – Flesh & spiritual things
  - 2. Matthew 6:24 – cannot serve God and riches
  - 3. Galatians 5:17 – cannot be worldly and fleshly
  - 4. We cannot ignore physical hunger, tiredness, etc. but spiritually we must hunger after righteousness (Matthew 5:6) and long for that rest (Matthew 11:28-30).
- B. How do we not walk after the flesh?
  - 1. Crucify the flesh – Galatians 5:24-25
  - 2. Abstain from fleshly lusts – 1 Peter 2:11
  - 3. Not serve sin – Romans 6:6
  - 4. Carry our cross (Matthew 16:24) daily (Luke 9:23)

#### II. A New Creature – v. 17

- A. “In Christ”
  - 1. Baptism – the only way into Christ! Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:4
  - 2. This is a new birth – John 3:3-5
  - 3. When we’re “in Christ” we have spiritual blessings – Ephesians 1:3
  - 4. There are not many ways into Christ – just one way, John 14:6
- B. Old things are passed away
  - 1. “I used to be a sinner, but now I . . .”

2. We are freed from sin! Romans 6:7 – No longer dominion over us!
3. Colossians 2:12-15 – Jesus took my sins (and the OT) to the cross
4. You may still be (NAME), but that old life of sin stays in that grave!

### III. Reconciled – v. 18

- A. We are reconciled (defined: restore friendly relations between)
  1. Sin separates us – Isaiah 59:1-2
  2. We were afar off but now near – Ephesians 2:13-14
  3. Jesus brought and bought us back – Colossians 1:20-22 & Acts 20:28
  4. Remember: since we've been reconciled, Satan cannot use our past life against us. He will try but it is no longer "on God's Books."
- B. We should live reconciled!
  1. Don't mope around of past sins. Some say, "I've been baptized but what I did was so bad – how can I live with myself?"
  2. Example: Paul – Phil. 3:4-11
  3. If Paul could get up and go everyday with his past, we can too!
  4. Remember: His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-24) and He has promised to not hold our forgiven past against us (I John 1:9)!

### IV. Trespasses Not Imputed – v. 19

- A. They should be charged against us but they are not!
  1. Jesus says "He/She's mine and these should not be charged!" (Matt. 10:32-33)
  2. Hebrews 8:12 – merciful and remembers them no more! Cf. Hebrews 10:7
  3. Romans 11:27 – take away their sins – OT Quote of Isaiah 27:9, Jeremiah 31:31
  4. Nails in fencepost illustration
- B. Offered nowhere else but with God
  1. In the OT, sins were technically forgiven when they were 'rolled forward' – see Leviticus 16, Day of Atonement
  2. In the World, trespasses are held strictly against us!
  3. II Corinthians 5:21 – Jesus became our sacrifice that we might be made righteous!
  4. John 16:33 – Jeopardy! – we've won if we just stay faithful to Him! Don't look for salvation in the OT or the World! You won't find it there!

In this lesson we have either read, quoted, or mentioned **37 different passages of Scripture, or 62 verses** to be exact, to see what the Bible says about the true you.

Do you look in the mirror and see the true you or do you see a deceived image Satan and the World want you to see? The only place to see your true self is in Christ!

Are you in Christ?

Are you faithful?

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