

# Your Identity In Christ

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## 1 Identity of the Called

NKJV Ephesians 1:1 “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful **in Christ** Jesus:

2 *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

In Christ is expressed over eleven times and is emphasized through this message.

Our identity affects our behavior so our identity should always reflect the Lord Jesus.

Many in the world struggle with who they are and identify themselves by their job; their family; by their successes or failures, but we are who we are by our faith in Christ Jesus.

Earthly identities change but our identity in Christ should never change.

The apostle opens with: *To the saints*; not to the rich or poor; not to losers or winners; and not to failures or triumphs, but to *the saints* who now belong to Christ.

NIV 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a **new creation**” with a new identity.

Ephesians 1:3 “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**.”

We are blessed with *every* spiritual blessing—not *some*, not *few* or even *many*, but **every** and **all** blessings needed—adoption into God’s family, His forgiveness, His peace, grace, hope, and an inheritance of His eternal kingdom.”

## 2 Chosen for Holiness

Ephesians 1:4 “*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.*”

Genuine faith and enduring trust in the redeeming Blood of Jesus makes us *holy and without blame*.

God chose us to reflect the *ways and attitudes* of His Son. Being His child *must* affect our behavior.

We are part of His family and are to pursue holiness—Hebrews 12:14 “*Pursue **peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.***”

## 3 Adopted through Christ

Ephesians 1:5 “*Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*”

Adoption in Rome was permanent. An adopted child received the family name and inheritance rights. When God adopts us we get a new name—**believer**, and are eligible to receive the inheritance that belong to His child.

## 4 Accepted and Redeemed

Ephesians 1:6 “*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* 8 *which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence.*”

The world measures acceptance by appearance, wealth, success, and popularity, but God accepts us because we *believe* what His Son did for us on the Cross.

Some say *We are **all** God’s children* but that is not true. We are all God’s **creation** but only His **child** by *faith* in His Son.

Love for Jesus changes everything. John 14:15 “*If you love Me, **keep My commandments.***”

*Redemption through His blood* means we were purchased from slavery to worldly ways, words, and attitudes.

Sin held us *captive* but Jesus made us *free*—not silver nor gold, but with His own precious Blood. *The forgiveness of sins* means forgiveness for *all sins* we had been in slavery to.

## 5 The Mystery Revealed

Ephesians 1:9 “[God] having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed **in Himself**,

10 *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in **one** all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—**in Him.***”

It is no longer a mystery, God takes the initiative *having made known to us* that *everything* centers on Christ—Romans 14:11 “*Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.*”

That day of judgment is fast approaching. The apostle also said Romans 14:8— “*Whether we live or die, we belong to [and identify with] the Lord.*”

Jesus used parables—He said to His disciples **Matthew 13:11** “*Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*”

If we truly want to understand any aspect of God’s Word, He will surely enlighten about it.

God’s revealed truth is:

- 1 Salvation comes through *enduring faith* in Christ alone;
- 2 Jew and Gentiles *become one* in Christ;
- 3 God’s plan has always been to *redeem sinners* through faith in His Son.

**Ephesians 3:6** “*That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.*”

Being a child of God through faith in His Son provides an eternal inheritance.

## 6 Inheritance of the Redeemed

**Ephesians 1:11** “*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*

**12** *that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*”

The inheritance is “*incorruptible*” **1 Peter 1:4** and nothing can diminish it.

In Bible times a seal represented ownership, authority, and authenticity. God places a *seal* on the believer.

The Holy Spirit is God’s guarantee that we belong to Him until the day of redemption.

## 7 Sealed with the Holy Spirit

**Ephesians 1:13** “*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

**14** *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*”

When we accept Christ as our Lord and Master, we identify with Him—we are *in Christ*.

We are accepted, chosen, adopted, and blessed—nothing can separate us from Him as we continue to trust Him—in whom “*having believed in Him—were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.*”

If our identity is *in Christ*, nothing can separate us from Him. We stand on an unchanging foundation.

We know God’s *purpose* for us, so with His help, we carry through with representing His Son in our ways, words, and treatment of people around us. We identify with Him at *all* times and in *all* situations.

Our identity is not formed by our circumstances in life; by our past; or by the opinion of others—our identity is anchored in what God says—“*in Christ*,” “*in Him*,” and “*in the beloved*.”

That means every *promise*, every *blessing* He has for us, and every *hope* we have in the Gospel, is found “*in Jesus Christ*,” and nothing can change that.

God’s ultimate purpose has been revealed NIV  
**Ephesians 1:9** “*And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ.*”

Now it is our responsibility and obligation to *live* and *act* and *talk* like a person of God’s family.

The Gospel plan of salvation through an enduring faith in Christ was God’s design from the very beginning, and His purpose has always been centered completely on Christ.

We now know truths that many prophets longed to understand—the plan that has been fully revealed to us *in Christ*.

Before the world ever *knew* our name, God *knew* His plan—and that plan was to reveal His Son to the world—gathering all who are *in Him* to be *one* glorious family living forever in peace, in harmony in an eternal Paradise prepared for all who are *willing* to believe and trust God.

Do we want to be part of that eternal plan? Do we identify with that divine purpose?

Are we willing to *stay* the course, *keep* the faith, and see spiritual *fruit* to give evidence that we *know the words*, and now we *live the life* by the power of the Spirit—a life that proves *Our Identity In Christ*.

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