



### **Identity Session 4**

The Christian life is the process of enjoying who I am *To* Christ and becoming who I am *In* Christ. Generally, the Christian life is a life of sanctification which involves living out our new nature and finding victory in our faith and our new identity.

So, who are we to Christ? What is God's heart toward us? How does he feel about us? What are His thoughts toward us? The bible has a great deal to say in response to these questions. Let's take a look at a few of them.

1. As you consider who you are To Christ, share about one or two that have had a significant impact on your life.

### **Who I Am To Christ**

- Matthew 6:26 - I am very valuable to Christ
  - Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:5 - I am forgiven in and by Jesus
  - Luke 20:36 - I am a child of God
  - John 3:6 - I am born of the Spirit
  - John 15:14 - Jesus says to me, "You are my friend".
  - Acts 20:28 - Together with all the saints, I am God's Church
  - Romans 1:7 - I am loved by God
  - Galatians 4:28 - I am a child of promise.
  - Ephesians 1:14 - I am God's precious, treasured possession.
  - 1 Peter 2:6 - I will never be put to shame.
  - 1 John 4:17-18 - I can have full confidence in approaching God's presence.
2. Which one would you say that Jesus is especially active in communicating to you through others and circumstances? How has that effected your life?
  3. The enemy Satan is attacking you through discouragement and lies? Which one do you have the hardest time believing about you? Why?

Now let's look at who Christ says we are *In* Him by examining a few questions people ask or might ask about this idea. Who am I in Christ? Am I still a sinner? Am I truly a saint? Has the "old man" inside me truly been crucified with Christ? Am I righteous in God's eyes? How can I become who I am in Christ? How can I be salt and light to the world around me? These are difficult questions, but again, Jesus and others have a great deal to say about these matters. Let's take a look at a few and again, discuss in your groups how these verses impact your life

## Who I Am In Christ

- Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17 I am a fisher of men.
  - Matthew 5:14 - I am the light of the world.
  - John 10:10 - I have abundant life in Christ.
  - Acts 5:20 - I have new life in Christ.
  - Romans 3:24 - I am redeemed in Christ.
  - Romans 6:6 - My old self is crucified with Christ. I am no longer sin's slave.
  - Romans 6:14 - Sin shall not be my master.
  - 1 Corinthians 1:30 - I am wise in Christ.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:20 - I am Christ's ambassador.
  - Ephesians 1:1 - I am faithful in Christ.
  - Ephesians 2:5 - I am saved by grace.
  - Ephesians 2:22 - I am a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.
  - Ephesians 3:17 - I am rooted and established in love.
  - 1 John 5:4-5: Born of God, I overcome the world by faith in Christ.
4. Which of the above do you see as weakness in your life? Why is it hard for you to believe that about yourself?
  5. Jesus gave you a new position in Him. Take a moment and compare where you were (or where you would be) without your new position? How has your life changed in your new identity in Him?
  6. Jesus does extraordinary things through groups of people who start believing these truths about themselves. What might God be able to do through our group as we begin to accept and believe these truths?
  7. How does being in Christ help us with our deep rooted patterns of sin that haunt us of past wrongs and events that have scared us? Is there something you still need to release to Christ?

Why do these sayings matter? What is the importance of knowing in our minds who we are to Christ? It has been my experience, that for many people, it is in knowing rationally who Jesus says they are 'To Him' and 'In Him' that leads to belief in their heart and soul of the truths spoken in the verses above.

I have found, as many others have found today and throughout history, that holding these truths close to our hearts and souls is the key to finding victory over any lie that would come against us. That knowing in our mind and believing in our heart who we are To Christ and In Christ helps us to begin to overcome fear, anxiety, shame, discontent, envy and jealousy which can then lead to a greater sense of joy, hope, contentedness and love.