

“Set Free To A New Identity”

2 Corinthians 5:12-21

Sermon Series: “Set Free To Live Free”

Introduction: Our identity is who we really are. In reality, our identity comes from God, and we are who He has made us to be and who He says we are. We are made in His image and are His highest creation. However, we are also all flawed because of sin and the image of God is still there but distorted. In Christ, we are reborn children of God who are made new. As Dr. Lori Arwood says, “This identity is fixed and unchangeable. We are who God says we are and not what we ‘feel’ or ‘think’ at a given time.” Our self-image then is how we see ourselves so identity is reality, and self-image is perception. However, perception can affect us very powerfully so a healthy and accurate self-image is very important. Josh McDowell says, “A healthy self-image is seeing ourselves as God sees us, nothing more and nothing less.”

We are new in Christ. In this message, we are going to look at a text that shows us three ways Jesus gives us a new identity. This is who we are in Christ, and it is vital that we see ourselves accurately and live accordingly. These truths answer some of the big questions of life, such as: “What is guiding my life?” “What is my purpose?” “Why am I here?” **So, if we are in Christ:**

1. We have a new Master (v. 12-15). *This means that we live for Jesus instead of self.* Verses 14-15 are very clear that Jesus died for everyone so that those who are made alive in Him through faith are no longer to live for themselves but for the One who died for them and rose from the dead. As Christians, we are under new ownership. Jesus is our Lord and we are to live in obedience to Him instead of by our own self-will. Of course, it is self that is our problem anyway (Romans 6). In this context, self does not mean our personality or God-given characteristics but our selfish, sinful self-will.

2. We have a new Mission (v. 18-21). *This means that we live as ambassadors of Christ and agents of reconciliation instead of living for our own selfish agenda.* Reconciliation is taking two separated things and bringing them back together again. Jesus reconciles us to God through His death on the cross. He bore our sin to make us right with God and bring us back into relationship with Him. Those that have been reconciled have also been given the ministry of reconciliation and been made to be ambassadors for Christ. John MacArthur writes, “An ambassador is both a messenger for and a representative of the one who sent him, and believers are messengers and representatives of the court of heaven.”

3. We have a new Makeup (v. 17). *This means that we are new creations who are defined by who we are in Christ instead of external, earthly things.* Rick Warren says, “Never find your identity in something that can be taken away from you.” Steven Furtick says, “Until Jesus is enough for you, no person or thing will ever be.” Who are we as new creations? Ephesians 1 tells us that in Christ we are:

-Chosen (v. 4)

-Holy and blameless (v. 4)

-Adopted children of God (v. 5)

-Accepted (v. 6)

-Redeemed (v. 7)

-Forgiven (v. 7)

-Graced (v. 7)

-Enlightened to know His will (v. 9)

-An heir of God (v. 11)

-Eternally secure (v. 13-14)

Conclusion: By faith, give your life to the One who gave His life for you. Then live your life based on the new identity you have in Christ.

