

WHO AM I IN CHRIST?

Part 3 of WHO AM I? 2 Corinthians 5:14-18.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 2, 2022.

WHAT GETS US THROUGH?

What gets us through?

For Peter, it is knowing his identity in Christ.

- If we are to negotiate living for Christ in all the muck of life, if we are to cope with the ups and downs of our emotions ... and the sheer pressure of our human brokenness, then the first step is to make sure we know who we are as children of God, as those who have been united to the Lord Jesus Christ (Gary Millar, blogpost, June 19, 2020).

Three gifts of knowing who we are in Christ.

- The gift of optimism because you know God is for you.
- The gift of resilience because you know God has you in his grip.
- The gift of courage because you know God is by your side.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-18

2 Corinthians 5:14-18 (ESV) The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God who through Christ reconciled us to himself ...

THE NEW CREATION

The phrase that sums up our identity in Christ.

Verse 17a: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The new creation is:

Verse 17b: he old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-6, 10 (ESV) You were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, ... 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ... 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works ...

Revelation 21:1-5 (ESV) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away ... 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

IN CHRIST, WE ARE THE NEW CREATION

Our fundamental identity in Christ is new creation. Therefore:

- Our sins are paid in full because Jesus gave himself up for us.
- We are raised with Christ to a new life - fresh start.
- We are in Christ; he is our life, identity, achievements.
- We are reconciled to God. He is for us.

Peter's experience.

EXPERIENCING MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL HEALTH

We are in Christ, but life still happens. Keep believing the truth.

Change unhelpful or harmful thinking patterns.

2 Corinthians 5:16 (ESV) From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

Make a 60 day plan to reformat our minds.

- Read out loud the Who Am I list, pages 51-53 in Victory Over the Darkness.
- Read the Daily Affirmation of Faith by Dr. Victor Matthews.
- Work through the Growth in Grace course: <https://bib.irr.org/growth-in-grace-lesson-1>

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Start Talking. Get the conversation going.

- When do you feel anxious? How do you overcome anxiety?

Start Thinking. Review Sunday's teaching.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching challenged or changed your thinking about identity?
- How does the concept of "new creation" inform the Christian's identity?

Start Sharing. Apply Sunday's teaching.

- What are some truths or lies about your identity on the "mental loop" in your head?
- What specific truths in Neil Anderson's list are most helpful to you?
- How would the "identity in Christ" concept have helped you as a teenager, as a spouse, as an employer/employee?
- What are some ways the "identity in Christ" concept might help our outreach?

Start Praying. Be bold.

Father, thank you for making us a new creation in Christ. By faith, we agree that we died to sin with Christ on the cross; we rose to new life with Christ in the resurrection; and we are raised up with Christ in the ascension to sit with him in heaven. We stand on the truths about our identity in Christ: We are ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, loved, adopted and accepted by you. Help us live in these truths every day. Thank you. Praise to you. Amen!

Keep Reading. In preparation for next Sunday.

- Read chapters 6 and 9 of Victory Over the Darkness.