

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

In Christ Alone, Who Am I

WELCOME

Who I Am. Briefly describe your self-identity.

WORD

GALATIANS 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Self-identity is critical because it gives us self-esteem, a sense of worth, purpose and meaning in life. Many people however have symptoms of 'Identit-itis', a spiritual disease that creeps into our lives making one depend on getting personal identity from achievements, wealth, relationships, position, experiences, popularity, etc..

These extrinsic markers are not necessarily wrong in forming one's identity, they can be good. But oftentimes, the good is the enemy of the best. So when we do not have enough of these markers in our lives or when we lose them, what happens is we begin to think that without such things we no longer have an identity or a sense of existence. If we depend on these things, we are building our identity on shaky ground like the man who built his house on sand. It will collapse sooner or later. Sadly, many think that they do not have any other basis for their identity but these.

A person with symptoms of 'Identit-itis' may also have an interior inflammation which results to spiritual pride. This disease originated from the Garden of Eden when the serpent deceived Eve.

THE IDENTITY THIEF

In the beginning, Adam and Eve enjoyed a personal relationship with God. They were created to be in union with Him. But, identity-theft was Satan's dark agenda. He wanted to draw the couple away from that vibrant, abundant, and fulfilling relationship with God. Sadly, they fell for the trap. They listened to Satan's lies and stepped on the landmine he had placed. This led them to a path that would steal away the identity they enjoyed being in relationship with God (**Genesis 3:1**).

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

But the truth is, there is no better basis, no better source, and no better foundation for who we really are than finding our identity in God. Having a personal relationship with God means our identity must be founded in Christ.

Entering into a personal relationship with Jesus gives us a change of identity which means the giving-up of ourselves to Him. When we surrender our life to Jesus, we are identified with Him in His death and resurrection. His life for our lives gives us a new identity. The old identity is gone and the new has come (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

The Bible describes our personal relationship with Jesus as that of a groom (Jesus) and a bride (us, the church). When a bride gives herself to her groom, she takes on his surname. Then, together with her new name, she has to change her legal papers including her signature, passport, driver's license, etc. The spiritual marriage gives the followers of Jesus a brand new spiritual name.

This is why people have to be on their guard. The Enemy would not want anyone to enter into a relationship with Jesus. The Identity Thief will either try to prevent a person's spiritual engagement with Christ or he will try to break apart one.

NO LONGER I BUT CHRIST

When we find our identity in Christ, we no longer live for ourselves but for Him. We do not pursue anymore our personal agenda but His.

King Solomon had acquired for himself all the pleasures of life that made him a celebrated king

WORD (cont'd)

(**Ecclesiastes 2:1–11**). But in all his splendor and stardom, he gave this advice toward his last years:

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them";
- *Ecclesiastes 12:1*

King Solomon warned us not to experiment with our life like he did. When we get to a time of regret, it may be too late, and we simply cannot turn back time and undo what we have done.

Paul had, at least, several reasons about his past life to be proud of: his genealogy, breeding, achievements, religious zeal and social status (**Philippians 4:3–8**). But when he had a personal encounter with the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus, from that day on he became a new creation and took on a brand new identity in Christ.

Paul discovered that the abundant life is about knowing Jesus in a personal, experiential way. Everything else is rubbish in comparison to it.

Who are we? Who cares about us? The answers to these questions will bring us back to our Creator who had formed us, redeemed us and called us. Because the Lord tells us "You are Mine!", we are indeed His (**Isaiah 43:1**). Should you think that you have no value or you are worthless, or you are a waste basket, just think about the price Jesus willingly paid – His own blood. A price He paid that we may become His. In truth, you are priceless. If you have come to Jesus and sometimes you don't feel like you have a new life, remember that your identity is in Christ and that He is molding us to be the person that He wants us to be. Because He loves us and gave Himself up for us, we should live our lives for Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **No Longer I.** What did the apostle Paul mean by being crucified with Christ in **Galatians 2:20**?
2. **Identity Change.** Have you died to yourself in order to live for Christ? How did it change your identity?
3. **Living It Out.** What evidences of your identity in Christ manifest in your life as you point people to Jesus?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE "YOUR IDENTITY"

As a follow up from last week's Pray-Care-Share activity, connect again with the people in your list then share about how they can find their identity in Jesus Christ using **Galatians 2:20**.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends