

My Identity "In Christ"

A Personal Reaffirmation

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Introduction

My Faith Story

My identity has been highly subjective and varied based on my interpretation and personal experiences throughout both my career and personal life, sometimes one and the same... Therefore, it has been everchanging.... or has it?

I embarked on an extensive journey of rediscovery and reaffirmation of the themes of transformation and identity in Christ, along with God's love and grace. It serves me as reminder of who I am as a follower of Christ and the profound significance of my relationship with Him, timeless and unchanging. It is intentionally not an essay on my temporal relationships, which for many defines my identity. Nor is it an expository of biblical behaviors. It is rather an examination of my worth to Him, just as I am.

For decades I have been in the marketplace as an employee under the influence of a marketplace profile and often not the reality of my identity in Christ. What follows is an examination of God's word that describes my relationship with Him that reaffirms and embraces my identity in Christ. It is not intended to be a comprehensive essay by any measure nor a behavioral expository. However, it does allow me to be intentional, on mission, as God's child and Kingdom Heir.

Who am I?

"Who am I?" is a question I often ask that demands reaffirmation as I transition from the marketplace into retirement.

In Christ?

It's even more challenging when the world tells me that who I am is found in my accomplishments, popularity, looks, or other superficial things, such as marketplace descriptions, especially my resume.

But when all that is peeled away, when I am sitting alone, who am I, *really*?

Reaffirmation: The true answer to my identity is in Christ alone.

God Defines My True Identity

I have learned that people in the Bible struggled with this concept, as well.

Moses asked God "Who am I?" when commissioned by Him for a great purpose. "But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt'" (**Exodus 3:11**)?

God affirms who Moses is by calling out His own name. He reassures Moses that He is with him, which gives Moses a new identity, a new purpose, and a new confidence.

"God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you''" (**Exodus 3:14**). Later Moses explained to the people that the Christ would come. "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen" (**Deuteronomy 18:15**).

In the same way, if I am insecure or unsure of who I am based on the world's standards, there is no need to fear. **Romans 8:37-39** states, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Reaffirmation: My identity is outlined only in God's Word and manifested in my identity in Christ!

How Do I Know If I Am "In Christ"?

Am I "in Christ"? Do I really belong to Him? I need to be able to say, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (**Galatians 2:20**).

Reaffirmation: My absolute identity is "In Christ" and in Him alone. Apart from Him, I am nothing!

Reaffirmations

I will forever reaffirm who I am, in Christ through scripture. I must remember how much power and love I have at my fingertips as a child of God. I am, in Christ...

1. By Design...

Genesis 1:27 (ESV): So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV): For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Reaffirmation: I am not an accident. Rather I was created by design for good works!

2. Chosen...

Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV): Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Ephesians 1:3-4: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV): But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reaffirmation: God had me in mind all along. I am special and chosen by Him.

3. Reconciled...

Colossians 1:19–20: For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross...

Reaffirmation: In Christ, you are reconciled back to Him! You are no longer an enemy or stranger, but a dearly loved child of His.

4. Redeemed...

Romans 3:23-24: ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Reaffirmation: In Christ, there is no more shame over my past sins and regrets. I have been fully redeemed, washed, justified and my conscience is clear thanks to Jesus. My past does not define me.

5. A New Creation...

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Reaffirmation: In Christ, I am not defined by my old self of sin. I am a brand-new person, pure in His sight!

6. Loved...

1 John 3:1-2: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so, we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be, has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Reaffirmation: In Christ, I am loved more than I can ever imagine. I am His dearly beloved child.

7. Enriched...

1 Corinthians 1:4-5: I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in Him (in Christ) in all speech and all knowledge.

Reaffirmation: In Christ, He informs the way I live my life and am always the better for it.

8. Like Christ...

Colossians 3:3-4 (NIV): For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

2 Timothy 1:7: For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

1 John 2:6: Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Reaffirmation: When I am in Christ, I exemplify this by walking (living) the way He did. I walk the talk!

9. Safe and Secure...

Psalms 34:7-8: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Romans 8:38-39: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reaffirmation: Ultimately, nothing on earth has power over me because I belong to God. This gives me an ultimate sense of safety and security.

10. Free From Sin...

1 John 3:5-6: You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

Romans 6:6 (ESV): We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Reaffirmation: In Christ, sin no longer has power over me. I am free from its bondage and am empowered to live in His holiness.

11. Alive...

Romans 6:10-12: So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions...

Reaffirmation: I have gone from death to life in Christ – I am spiritually alive and have eternal life!

12. Faithful...

Ephesians 1:1-2: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reaffirmation: In Christ, I am empowered to be faithful to God until death and to follow in His teachings.

13. Sanctified...

1 Corinthians 1:1-3: Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21:For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reaffirmation: As a Christian, I am called a "saint" because I am sanctified, or set apart, from the world. This is not because of my own righteousness, but because of His righteousness.

14. Able to Boast....

1 Corinthians 1:28–31: God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reaffirmation: In Christ, I no longer boast in myself and my worldly accomplishments. Instead, I boast in all Christ has done for me!

15. Blessed...

Ephesians 1:3-4: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

Reaffirmation: In Christ, I have every spiritual blessing! No blessings I accumulate on earth can even compare. No matter what happens to me, I am blessed beyond my wildest imaginings.

16. Unified...

Ephesians 1:7-10: In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth...

Reaffirmation: I am complete, whole, and unified with Him again when I am in Christ.

17. Rich...

Ephesians 1:11: In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.

Reaffirmation: It doesn't matter what physical possessions I obtain in this life. In Christ, I am rich! I have hope of heaven and inheritance with the Son!

18. Hopeful...

Ephesians 1:12: ...So that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory.

Reaffirmation: In Christ, I have hope that never fades. No matter what happens in this life, I have a promise of eternal life waiting for me.

19. Friend....

John 15:15: No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Reaffirmation: What a high honor it is to be called a friend of the King of Kings!

20. Strong...

Philippians 4:12-13: I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Reaffirmation: What an everlasting joy to be assured of my enduring strength in and through Jesus Christ!

21. His Child...

John 1:11-13: "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Galatians 3:26: For in Christ Jesus, you are all sons of God, through faith.

Reaffirmation: I have a Heavenly Father who always understands and is always there for me. I am His dearly beloved child.

22. Body Member...

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (ESV): Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 12:26-27: If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

2 Corinthians 5:20: We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Reaffirmation: I am a temple of the Holy Spirit and part of something far bigger than myself.

23. An Heir...

John 14:2: My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

Romans 8:17 (ESV): And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 3:29: If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 4:7: So, you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Reaffirmation: What a fabulous future ahead of me that I could never secure on my own!

24. Under Grace.....

Ephesians 2:8-9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Reaffirmation: I am under God's Grace, as an unearned gift, such that I am free to live a life worthy of my identity!

Keywords For Further Discovery

Ambassador
Blessed
Body
Child
Children
Chosen
Confidence
Created
Friend
Grace
Heir
Image
Likeness
Loved
Me
Personal
Reconciled
Redeemed
Sheep
Sons
Strength
Safe
Secure
Unified
Worthy
You