

## Lesson 6:

### A Solid Foundation – Our Identity In Christ (Part 1)

- I. Who do you think you are?<sup>1</sup>
  - A. What defines you as a person?
  - B. More importantly, WHO defines you?
    1. Self: Can you trust your own evaluation of yourself? Your perception of reality may be warped.
    2. The World: Do you allow the world to define who you are based on its standards of worth and value?
    3. God: Our worth and value are not based on our performance, but on the finished work of Christ.

*Jesus Christ is the Great Equalizer:*

*No matter where we have come from, no matter what we have done, no matter what has happened to us, our union with Christ gives us a new identity – the “New Creation.” 2 Corinthians 5:16-17*

- II. We have been given a new identity “*IN Christ.*”
  - A. Ephesians 1:3; 13-14
    1. Because we are “in Christ,” the believer resides in two realities: the physical and the spiritual.<sup>2</sup> “In the heavenly realms” refers to the unseen spiritual realm that we reside in at the same time that we live in this physical world.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Neil Anderson, *Victory Over the Darkness* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990). The material in this chapter was influenced by Dr. Anderson’s teaching in this book, which was used in 2001 by Moody Bible Institute as their text for the course, *Introduction to Biblical Counseling*. Used by Permission.

<sup>2</sup> Klyne Snodgrass, *Ephesians: The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), 342.

2. v. 13-14 "... Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of His glory."

B. The "Gift" is a picture of being "in Christ."

John 3:16            God the Father gave His Son

***When Does a Gift Become Yours?***

I John 5:11-12      Eternal life is IN the Son

Rev. 5:9            With His own blood, Christ purchased men for  
God

I John 14:18-20    Jesus is IN the Father, we are IN Him, and He is  
IN us.

*God makes a distinction between who we are and what we do,  
between our position in Christ and our performance.*

*He deals with our sin, but He does so as a loving Father. Hebrews 12:4-11*

***This Week's Memorization Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17***

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
the old has gone, the new has come!"*

