

Who I am in Christ

If someone asks you the question 'Who are you?' what would be your answer? No doubt you would offer your name, occupation, nationality or church denomination by way of a reply. Who I really am is what I believe about myself 'on the inside', and as a child of God, this should be determined by what God says about me in His Word. Unfortunately many Christians are held captive by negative views of themselves which hinder their growth and sense of fulfilment as they seek to walk with God.

In many ways we simply do not believe the truth concerning who God says we are **in Christ**.

Do you feel that any negative emotions are robbing you of fulfilment and effectiveness in your Christian walk?

Overcoming the lies

We need to be aware that satan's plan is to **"steal, and to kill, and to destroy"** (John 10 v.10) but **Jesus came to bring us abundant life!**

John 8v.44 says: "...he is a liar, and the father of lies, and of all that is false."

Until we receive salvation through Jesus Christ, and experience His power within to overcome, we are all deeply affected by the lies of satan, our enemy. Many of us have not been blessed by good, loving parents who affirmed us, and built into our thinking positive attitudes about who we are. The good news, however, is that God is in the restoration business! We need to remember, though, that the thinking and habits of a lifetime cannot be changed overnight. God's Word tells us that we are continually being changed into His likeness:

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son ..." (Rom. 8 v.29)

In order to become more like Jesus, we need to walk in obedience to God, diligently reading and applying His Word to our lives and spending time in His presence.

Every person who is born is affected by the Fall of Adam and Eve. Spiritual death came through Adam but through Jesus Christ we receive **eternal life!**

Read Romans 5 v.12-21

Some of the negative emotions common to humanity as a result of the Fall are fear, guilt, shame, rejection and isolation. Each one of us will have experienced some of these, if not all! Even when we have received salvation these deeply rooted emotions can dominate our lives in such a way that we are unable to function properly in relationships, or make the right choices in our life.

Doctrine is important!

Doctrine is what we actually believe about God and ourselves in relation to Him, based on His Word, the Bible.

What we believe about God, ourselves and others must come before what we do.

As someone has rightly said ... we are human beings not human doings!

God loves us for who we are not for what we do for Him, though good works will follow right beliefs (**Eph. 2 v.10 says we are: "...created in Christ Jesus for good works."**)

Think carefully about these words of Jesus:

"If you abide in My Word you are My disciples indeed.

And you shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8 v.31)

What must you do in order to live in the freedom Jesus has provided for you?

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The following Scripture truths are selected from Dr. Neil Anderson's book 'Victory over the Darkness'. As you meditate on them, let God begin to change the way you think about yourself and Him. Take time to fully 'digest' each truth – and try to memorise some of these verses. A tip to help you do this: write out the verse and Scripture reference on a small card, and stick it somewhere you can read it during your daily routine.

I am accepted

John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Jesus' friend.
Romans 5:1	I have been justified.
1 Cor. 6:20	I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.
Ephesians 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child.
Colossians 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sin.
Colossians 2:10	I am complete in Christ.

I am secure

Romans 8:12	I am free from condemnation.
Romans 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good.
Romans 8:35-39	I cannot be separated from God's love.
Philippians 1:6	I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.
Colossians 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
2 Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.
1 John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I am significant

John 15:1,5	I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ.
1 Cor. 3:9	I am God's co-worker.
Ephesians 2:6	I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.
Ephesians 2:10	I am God's workmanship.
Ephesians 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

