

Believe Series
“Identity in Christ”
Who am I?

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.”
Luke 19:1-9 (NLT)

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12 (NLT)

When God makes us His child we get...

...a new father.

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!

1 John 3:1a (NLT)

...a new name.

At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, “This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! What’s more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations.”

Genesis 17:3-5 (NLT)

Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John- but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).

John 1:42 (NLT)

...a new family.

All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.

Ephesians 2:19 (NLT)

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT)

...a new identity.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

..and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.

2 Corinthians 1:22 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

Our worth comes from our position in Christ not our performance.

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)

What do you believe?

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Read Believe Chapter 5: Identity in Christ.

1. Who are you? How would you answer that question?
2. What are some temporary things people draw their Identity from? What are some of those things for you?

Why is it dangerous to take you Identity from some of these fleeting things?

3. Re-read Luke 19:1-9. Jesus wanted a relationship with Zaccheus. That relationship would change him. How have you been changed since coming into a relationship with Jesus?

If you could start over with a new Identity like Zaccheus did, what would you leave in your past?

4. Re-read Ephesians 4:15-16. How does understanding our Identity in Christ change the way we deal with others in our lives?
5. What behaviors or attitudes would change if you truly found your value in Christ rather than personal achievements?
6. Where are you getting negative Images of yourself? How can you shut them up and shut them out?