



reflecting Jesus

BETA

when I am connected to Jesus,
his life and identity becomes mine **02**

?

did you know that...

in Jesus I am loved

nothing can separate me from God's love

in Jesus I am secure

God promises to forgive me for everything I have ever done

in Jesus I am empowered

God himself lives inside me and He makes His power available to me

in Jesus I am valued

God considers that I am his "treasured possession"

in Jesus I am provided for

I will never need to worry about any of my needs

in Jesus I have a new purpose

I will never have to worry that my life is a waste of time

in Jesus I have a new family

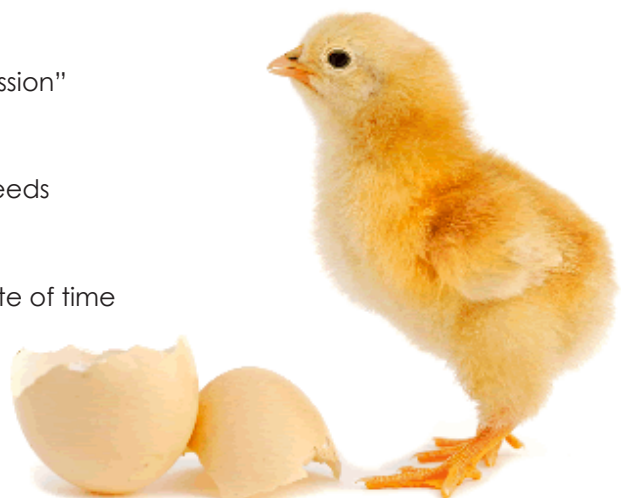
I will never have to feel alone

in Jesus I have new responsibilities

I am a co-worker with God Himself

in Jesus I have new future

I will never have to worry about my future plans



*if anyone is in Christ, he is a new
creation; the old has gone, the new
has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)*



the facts of his story

Paul says, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). In other words, when we are connected to Jesus, we gain a whole new identity, for we are no longer identified with the things and attitudes of Satan's kingdom here on this sinful earth. This is a totally different way of looking at ourselves and our lives.

Read through the list below. Then look up the texts, beginning in the areas that most interest you. What is the most wonderful thing you can discover about your identity in Jesus?

I AM:

1. I AM LOVED

- * Nothing can separate me from God's love Romans 8:37-39
- * I am loved and chosen by God 1 Thessalonians 1:4

2. I AM SECURE

- * I am forgiven because of the riches of God's grace Ephesians 1:7-8
- * I am not condemned for my past sins Romans 8:1-2
- * I am sealed with the Holy Spirit Ephesians 1:13

3. I AM VALUED

- * I am God's treasured possession Deuteronomy 14:2
- * I am being transformed into the likeness of God 2 Corinthians 3:18

4. I AM EMPOWERED

- * God lives in me as Jesus lives in the Father and the Father in Jesus John 17:20-22
- * I can do everything that God wills because he gives me strength Philippians 4:13

5. I AM PROVIDED FOR

- * I have direct access to God's throne for all my needs Hebrews 4:14-16
- * The God who died to save me will certainly give me everything I will ever need Romans 8:31-32

I HAVE:

1. I HAVE A NEW PURPOSE

- * To glorify God by revealing God's character to others John 15:8
- * To do good works for God Ephesians 2:10

2. I HAVE A NEW FAMILY

- * I am a member of Heaven's family—a child of God John 1:12
- * I am a member of God's family on earth—His Church Romans 12:5

3. I HAVE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

- * I have been bought with a price 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- * I am an ambassador for God's kingdom 2 Corinthians 5:20
- * I am a royal priest for God 1 Peter 2:9
- * I am a worker with God 1 Corinthians 3:9

4. I HAVE A NEW FUTURE

- * Where everything works for good Romans 8:28
- * I have an inheritance in Heaven 1 Peter 1:3-4

I LIVE BY:

1. FAITH, NOT JUST SIGHT OR FEELINGS

- * 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 1:17

2. EXPERIENCE, NOT JUST THEORY

- * Ephesians 3:16-19, 2 Corinthians 4:16

3. SACRIFICE, NOT JUST GETTING

- * Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 1:21

4. OBEDIENCE, NOT JUST KNOWING

- * 1 John 2:5-6

5. ABIDING, NOT JUST TRYING ON MY OWN

- * John 15:1-4

6. SERVING, NOT JUST LOOKING AFTER MYSELF

- * Philippians 2:1-8

7. RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, NOT JUST RULES

- * John 15:15



thinking it through

1. What is the most important idea about your identity that you have read, and why?

2. What do you find the most difficult to believe or the most challenging to live, and why?



habits for reflecting Jesus ~ exploring my identity

where do you get your identity from?

What makes you “you”? Is it what you have? What you know? Who you know? What others think of you?

When we become Christians and are “born again” we take on a new identity. No longer are we identified by what people think of us, but how God views us.

Because it is easy to forget our identity in Christ, here is a survey to help you understand how you really look at yourself. This is helpful because understanding how we think and feel about life helps us to build in the right places in the future.

In the questions below, place a X on the line that is closest to what you really think. Be as honest as you can. Don't try and answer what you think should be the right answer, because you want to gain an accurate understanding of your own identity today.

1 I feel most loved when...

I know I am loved by
friends or family

I know that God loves
me

2 I feel most secure when...

I know I am accepted
unconditionally by God

Other people like me

3 I feel valued when...

Other people think I am
really special

God thinks I am really
special

4 I feel most confident when I rely on...

God's power

Myself

5 The one who is going to take care of me is...

Me

God

6 The purpose of life is to...

Honour God

Enjoy myself

7 The family that is most important to me is...

The family of God

My earthly family

8 The most important responsibilities in life are...

Those that have to do
with God's kingdom

Looking after my own
needs

9 When I think about the future...

I know God is working
everything out for my
good at all times

I feel scared

10 I live mostly by...

a	Faith	.....	What I can see
b	An experience of God	.....	The theory of God
c	Sacrificing for God	.....	Getting things for me
d	Obedience to God	.....	Knowing about God
e	Relying on what Jesus has done for me	.....	Doing things myself
f	Serving others	.....	Serving myself
g	A relationship with God	.....	Following rules

Look back over your answers. Are there any questions or answers that have surprised you about your identity? Anything you need to do? Ask further questions about? Pray about?



putting the pieces together

In "the facts of his story" we saw lots of texts, pieces of one large puzzle, that help us to understand our identity in Jesus. What matters most is not how other people see us. We don't have to think that we will only be loved if we look a certain way, or have the right clothes. What matters is how God views us, and he loves us very much as we are.

In "thinking it through" you continued thinking about your identity in Christ and how these texts relate to your own life.

Then in "habits for reflecting Jesus" you had a chance to evaluate how you really think about your identity. Evaluating how we relate to God is something that is helpful to do at regular intervals through our lives to make sure we keep thinking about ourselves as Heaven thinks about us.



my time with God

Each day this week, read one or two texts from "the facts of his story". Write them down in your journal and think about how life would be different for you if you were aware of this truth at all times. Pray that God will help you to remember this part of your identity in the future.



pass it on!

Can you explain to someone what it means to have an identity in Jesus, and what this means to you?



extra help

1. Steps to Christ Chapter 8, Growing up into Christ.