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Our Identification In Jesus

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There are many born again believers who because of their past mistakes never know their true identification in the Lord Jesus Christ. God's view of us is through Jesus and what He has done for each of us. When we finally learn who we are in Him, we will begin to stop thinking about ourselves and think about others. There are over 133 verses in the Epistles that tell us who we are in Jesus. It will be a challenge for us to walk in victory until we realize what our identity in Jesus is all about. God does not see us as we see ourselves missing the mark, but as complete because of the finished work of Jesus Christ, He sees us as whole, He loves us unconditionally and until we begin to see ourselves in His kind of love, it will be challenge to overcome the situations we have in our lives.

1 Peter 2:9-10 " But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." " NLT

At one time we had an excuse regarding our identity, but now because of Jesus, we have no excuse.

The meaning of identification is a mental process, which a person attributes to himself the feelings or the qualities of another person or group that is either greater or different than him. We begin to identify with them in everything.

Our identity does not rest in our abilities but with Jesus. As we wrestle with our ability to identify in Jesus' finished work, we need to understand, that if the devil can confuse your identity, he can confuse your lives. By the way that we might be pulled, depends on our identity. As we begin to understand and practice our identity, we sometimes are found to be great hearers, but not great doers.

On the cross, Jesus identified himself with fallen mankind, he paid the price for anything that we might have need of, so that we could be identified with His victorious resurrection. He was judged with our judgment in the bowels of the earth, so that we would not have to be judged. His victory was so complete that we stumble over the greatness and completeness of it.

2 Cor 5:17-21 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." KJV

Some translations use the word creation, meaning something that has not been before. Before we met Jesus, our spirit inside us was dead, but at the new birth our spirit became alive, old things were passed away.

There is an age old war that goes on within us that we all deal with from time to time, the old man waring with the new man that we have become, wanting to keep us ignorant of the knowledge of what we have in Jesus. The new man wants to make the change and get rid of the past, but many times because we do not know our true identity, we just allow the past to become a comfort zone for us to live in. When we are challenged to move out and take a step of faith and meet with opposition, we become disillusioned or discouraged and move back to our comfort zone. It requires no faith or trust in God at all. We have no purpose in life; we are just struggling with our identification of who we are.

We are new creatures in Christ, even though we may not understand, our identification has changed, how does this happen? God is viewing us through His Son Jesus, He is not looking at our mistakes and our past, but He brought us into reconciliation and harmony through Jesus. God sees us complete in Jesus.

Col 2:10 "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" KJV

How do we see ourselves today, as failures barely hanging on? When we hold on to our past where our identification is, we do so at the expense of the purpose that God has for us here on earth and our future. Many have no clue to who they are and what they have become. Without knowing they will never be identified with the new creature that they are. There will be a sense of unworthiness and insecurity continually in their lives. This is not God's plan.

In first Samuel chapter 17, we learn about David and his identification with the Lord. He had no doubts; he knew that he had a covenant and what that covenant covered. David was too young to go to war with his brothers, his dad sends him to the battle to check on his brothers, but when he got there he sees the giant Goliath, listens to his threats, and sees how terrified the Israel army was of him. Israel's army had forgotten about the covenant that they had with God and only saw their identity as defeat and slavery. Daily the giant had challenged the army, offering to be their servant if anyone could kill him, but if he was the victor, then the Israel would be his servants. David became irate in listening to this uncircumcised Philistine and took on the challenge himself to defeat Goliath.

The outcome of the challenges that come our way depend on where our identity in Jesus is. The Word tells us that we are conquers in everything, we are can do all things through Him, no one can ever stand against us and the enemy will flee seven different ways, no weapon formed against us will prosper, because our righteousness is of God.

We know that old habits can usually be broken in a period of 21 days and by the end of 63 days, those habits broken will take on new habits with the renewing of our minds in the Word of God.

The following scripture in Ephesians shows us our responsibility as we begin to grow in our new identity of Jesus and to let Jesus become Lord of our lives. Jesus is only Lord of our lives if we are doers of the word of God. We learn truths and relearn them as we go along in life. A truth is "to learn we must want to be taught" not to argue. Another truth is "yielding pacifies an offense" not being stubborn to our own way.

Eph 4:20-32 "But you did not so learn Christ! 21 Assuming that you have really heard Him *and* been taught by Him, as [all] Truth is in Jesus [embodied and personified in Him], 22 Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts *and* desires that spring from delusion; 23 And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], 24 And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, rejecting all falsity *and* being done now with it, let everyone express the truth with his neighbor, for we are all parts of one body *and* members one of another. 26 When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down. 27 Leave no [such] room *or* foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him]. 28 Let the thief steal no more, but rather let him be industrious, making an honest living with his own hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need. 29 Let no foul *or* polluting language, *nor* evil word *nor* unwholesome *or* worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good *and* beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need *and* the occasion, that it may be a blessing *and* give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [do not offend or vex or sadden Him], by Whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God's own, secured) for the day of redemption (of final deliverance through Christ from evil and the consequences of sin). 31 Let all bitterness and indignation *and* wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamor, contention) and slander (evil-speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice (spite, ill will, or baseness of any kind). 32 And become useful *and* helpful *and* kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you." AMP

Our identification in Jesus is a process that never ends. Where we are, Jesus is there and where Jesus is, we are with him, this is our identification.

This was the knowledge that David had, he knew where his God was, and that God had helped him in dealing with everything that arose in his life, the lion and bear that he had killed with his bare hands. That he had God's ability in him.

Col 2:10 "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" KJV

The more we become identified with Jesus, the greater our victories will be, past mistakes will lose their power over us, and they will become learning experiences that we can teach others by.

1 John 4:17 "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." KJV

The old man in us doesn't want us to know who we are, wants to keep us ignorant to who we are in Jesus, a new creation.

1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." KJV

Paul is teaching about the unrighteous, where their identification was before they became born again. Don't be identified with the labels of the past.

1 Cor 6:9-11 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." KJV

There is a continual war between the old man and the new. Many believers until they know what their identity is in Jesus, question as to whether they are saved or not, forever being drawn back to the past and the mistakes made then. We are His chosen people; we now have mercy, begin to establish your identification in Jesus. We are in a different family now; we are identified in the family of God, let the past go, cut it off and learn who you are now.