

# TRUE IDENTITY



IN HIM, WE ARE SAVED  
March 1, 2020

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:1-10

## WEEKLY SERMON REFLECTION

- ◆ How did the sermon this week from the passage above speak to you personally?
- ◆ Why is that important to you?
- ◆ What is the biggest challenge of that truth?

## HEAD

- ◆ How has your life, your actions and your thoughts changed from death to life in Christ? (vv. 1-3)
- ◆ Discuss an instance from this past week when the character of God described in verse 4 was evident to you.
- ◆ The beginning of verse 4 is often translated, “But God”. God didn’t have to save us because of who we inherently are as people. *He saves us in spite of it!* God graciously and patiently loves us. How are we challenged to interact with others based upon God’s heart towards us?
- ◆ We are saved by grace through faith. Discuss what it looks like when a Christian continually tries to ‘reimburse’ God for the precious gift of salvation. What is the proper view of ‘works’ in the life of a Christian?  
Discuss the imagery of a ‘masterpiece’. How are masterpieces handled and regarded? Since we are God’s masterpiece, how does this imagery apply to us and how we view/treat others? How does this further inform your identity in Christ?



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## HEART

- ◆ Reflect on the goodness of God and the unmerited gift of salvation. Where in your life do you still find yourself trying to ‘earn favor’ with God?
- ◆ As God’s masterpieces, he created us to do good works which he prepared in advance for us to do. Where have you seen God’s hand of preparation at work in your life? How is he currently using you to make disciples and build his Kingdom?
- ◆ On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself on ‘thankfulness’ to God? Why did you give yourself this rating?

## ACTION

- ◆ “It is God’s will for you to establish Him as the most important input into your life. A right view of yourself is a product of listening to Him and rejecting the input in your life that is not in harmony with His perspective. If you have sensed your complete need of God’s forgiveness and placed your trust in Jesus, you can know just how valuable you are to Him. Throughout the Bible, God tells His people that they are precious to Him. Look at these summary points of several Scripture passages that reflect God’s thinking about His children.
  1. “I accept you” (Romans 15:7)
  2. “You are a precious person to me, and I am continually thinking about you” (Psalm 139:17-18)
  3. “I’m continually devoted to you and will provide all that you need to fulfill My purpose for you” (Romans 8:31-32; 38-39)
  4. “I’ve adopted you into My family and will take care of you, lead you, discipline you, and develop you as your Father” (Galatians 4:5-6)
  5. “I’ll live in you, and you’ll never have to be alone as I had to be when I died on the cross for you” (Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 13:5b)
  6. “I have a wonderful future for you, that you will know joy and satisfaction for all eternity” (Romans 8:18)
  7. “I have a unique plan of good works for you to accomplish” (Ephesians 2:10)
  8. “My plan is unique for you because no one else has your exact physical features, upbringing, talents, and abilities, and even your unique weaknesses” (Psalm 139:13-16)
  9. “I’ll continue to work in you because My glory is at stake” (Philippians 2:13; Psalm 23:3)
  10. “I’ll make you into a most attractive person in My eyes and allow you to fulfill My plan as you present your life to Me” (Romans 8:29; 12:1-2)



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Do you believe these amazing truths? Reread Point 8! For which one of your features do you struggle to thank God? Helen Keller, who was deaf and mute, said, “I thank God for my handicaps, for through them, I have found myself, my work and my God.” There should be no doubt after reading these verses that God is serious about His relationship with you. Read Point 9 again. God is committed to His children because His glory is at stake. God’s very essence demands that He bolster the relationship of trust and faith with us. God wants you to have a right view about yourself as a child of God, because that will manifest itself in your relationship with Him and with others.”<sup>1</sup>

- ◆ Which feature do you struggle with the most? Post the accompanying scripture verse in prominent places where you will be reminded of the truth of who you are in Christ throughout the week.

<sup>1</sup> Thrasher, Bill, et al. *Living the Life God Has Planned: A Guide to Knowing God's Will*. Moody Publishers, 2001.

