

Who Do You THINK You Are, Anyway?

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” —Proverbs 23:7 KJV

Who you think you are affects how you behave, and how you behave determines who you are. What you feel should not dictate your actions — emotions are not marching orders. If you do what you know will please God, your feelings will follow. In order to be who you are as a Christian, you must know who you are IN Christ. If you are born again, the Bible says:

1. YOU ARE DECLARED “NOT GUILTY” OF SIN!

“And are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:24 NIV

You have been redeemed! Christ set you free from slavery to sin. In Old Testament times, a person's debts could result in his being sold as a slave. The next of kin could redeem him — buy his freedom. Christ paid for your freedom with His life.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1 NIV

You are free from sin and from a long list of laws and regulations. Christ came to set you free — not for you to do whatever you want, because that would lead back into slavery to your natural selfish desires. Rather, thanks to Christ, you are now free and able to do what was impossible before — to live unselfishly.

If you use your freedom to have your own way or indulge your desires you will fall back into sin.

- Do you merely enjoy your freedom from rules and sin, or do you use it to *put off* old attitudes and behaviors?
- How are you using your freedom to please God?
- What old behaviors and bad thinking habits are you changing?

2. YOU ARE FREE OF CONDEMNATION!

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:1 NIV

“Not guilty; let him (her) go free!” What would those words mean to you if you were on death row? The fact is that the whole human race IS on death row, justly condemned for repeatedly breaking God's holy Law. Without Jesus, you would have no hope — but thank God! He declared you “not guilty” and has *offered* you *freedom* from sin and the *power* to not sin.

- Are you using God's power to change your attitudes and behaviors? How?

3. YOU ARE FREE FROM THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF SIN AND DEATH!

“...Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”

Romans 8:2 NIV

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

John 3:6 KJV

This “Spirit of life” is the Holy Spirit. He was present at the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2), and He is the power behind the rebirth of every Believer. He gives you the power you need to live the Christian life.

God became a man in Jesus so that Jesus could die for your sins. Jesus rose from the dead to offer salvation to all people through *spiritual* renewal and rebirth.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, His physical presence left the earth, but He promised to send the Holy Spirit so His spiritual presence would still be among mankind.

The power of the Holy Spirit is available to you in your new life in Christ. He begins a lifelong process of change as you become more like Christ. You began an immediate personal relationship with God, the Father, when you received Christ.

“Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?”

Galatians 3:3 NIV

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.”

Romans 8:5 NIV

People are divided into two categories — those who let themselves be controlled by their sinful natures, and those who follow after the Holy Spirit. We would all be in the first category if Jesus hadn't offered us a way out.

Because you said yes to Jesus, you should want to follow Him because His way brings life and peace. You are free to consciously choose to center your life on God daily. In every perplexing situation ask yourself, “What would Jesus want me to do?” or “What would Jesus want me to say?” When the Holy Spirit points out what is right through God's Word and godly counsel, do it eagerly!

- What are the good works that Jesus is carrying on in your “new” life in Him?

“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 7:15, 24-25 NIV

“... being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:6 NIV

4. YOU ARE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

"... To those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ — their Lord and ours ..."
I Corinthians 1:2 NIV

A personal invitation should make you feel wanted and welcome. We are "called to be holy [saints]." God personally invites you to be a citizen of His eternal Kingdom. But Jesus Christ is the only one who could bring you into this glorious Kingdom — He is the only one who removes your sins. "Sanctified" means you are chosen or set apart by Christ for His service. Accepting God's invitation means accepting His Son, Jesus, and trusting in the work He did on the cross to forgive your sins.

- How is "being acceptable to God" manifested in your day-to-day thinking and behavior?

5. YOU ARE PURE AND HOLY!

"It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."
I Corinthians 1:30 NIV

"For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life."
I Thessalonians 4:7 NIV

- Is it possible that God's original plan for your life is now being lived?

6. YOU WILL RISE AGAIN!

"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."
I Corinthians 15:22 NIV

What a promise to those who love Christ! You reign over sin's power, over death's threats, and over Satan's attacks. Eternal life is yours now and forever. (See Romans 5:17-19.) You were born into Adam's physical family — the family line that leads to certain death. You reap the results of Adam's sin. You inherited the tendency to sin, and God's wrath and punishment. Because of Jesus, however, you traded judgment for forgiveness. You traded your sins for Jesus' goodness.

Jesus offered you the opportunity to be born into His spiritual family — the family line that begins with forgiveness and leads to eternal LIFE. If you had done nothing, you would have death through Adam; but you came to God by faith, and you have life through Christ.

7. YOU ARE FREE FROM TRYING TO BE SAVED BY BEING GOOD ENOUGH!

*“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where
the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”*

II Corinthians 3:17 NIV

When you turned to God (“the Lord”), you received Him and experienced Him as the Spirit. Those trying to be saved by keeping the Old Testament Law were soon tied up in rules and ceremonies. Under the Holy Spirit, God provided you freedom from sin and condemnation (Romans 8:1). When you asked Christ to save you, your heavy burden of trying to please Him and your guilt for failing to do so should have dropped away. By trusting Him, you are loved, accepted, forgiven, and FREED to live for Him.

- What freedoms do you now possess that you did not have before Christ?

8. YOU ARE A NEW PERSON!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

II Corinthians 5:17 NIV

You are brand new INSIDE. The Holy Spirit gave you new life, and you are not the same anymore. You are not reformed, rehabilitated, or reeducated — you are a new creation, living in vital union with Christ (Colossians 2:6-7). You have not merely turned over a new leaf; you are living a new life under a new Master.

*“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the
right to become children of God—”*

John 1:12 NIV

When you welcomed Jesus as Lord of your life, you were reborn spiritually, receiving new life from God. Through faith in Christ, His Holy Spirit is changing (sanctifying) you from the inside out—your attitudes, desires, and motives.

God is the source of your relationship with Christ. That relationship is personal and living. Your union and identification with Him results in you having right standing with God.

- How does the world try to make you change from the outside in?

9. YOU ARE FULL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

*“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

When you trusted in Christ, you made a trade — your sin for His goodness. Your sin was poured into Christ at His crucifixion. His righteousness is poured into you at your conversion. In the world, bartering (trading) works only when two people exchange goods of relatively equal value. But God has offered to trade His righteousness for your sin — something of immeasurable worth for something completely, totally worthless.

- How do your attitudes, desires and motives reflect the righteousness of God in your life?

10. YOU ARE UNITED IN CHRIST WITH ALL CHRISTIANS!

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Galatians 3:28 NIV

It's our natural inclination to feel uncomfortable around those who are different from us and to gravitate toward those who resemble us. Your family and old friends may not feel comfortable around you now that you are Christ's. But because of the love, acceptance and forgiveness from God through Christ, you know who you are. Differences that separate you from others are now opportunities for you to love and accept them with the love of God. Make a point of seeking out and appreciating people who are not just like you. You may find you both have a lot in common. Jesus, perhaps? What could be more important?

- Who will you allow the Lord to love through you?

11. YOU'RE BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN HEAVEN!

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*

Ephesians 1:3 NIV

What is heaven? Heaven is where God is. “All spiritual blessings in heavenly realms” means all the good things God gives us — salvation, the gifts of the Spirit, power to do God's will, the hope of living forever with Christ. Because you have an intimate relationship with Christ, you can enjoy these blessings now. Today is the first day of your *eternal* life.

- Are you *thinking* with an eternal perspective?

12. YOU ARE HOLY, FAULTLESS AND COVERED BY GOD'S LOVE!

*“For He chose us in Him before the creation
of the world to be holy and blameless
in His sight. In love . . .”*

Ephesians 1:4 NIV

“For He chose us” emphasizes that salvation depends totally upon God. You are not saved because you deserve it, but because God is gracious and freely gives salvation. You did not influence God's decision to save you; He did it according to His plan. Thus there is no way to take credit for your salvation, or to find room for pride. The mystery of salvation originated in the timeless mind of God long before you existed. It may be difficult to understand how God could accept you, but because of Christ you are holy and blameless in His eyes. God chose you, and when you belong to Him through Jesus, He sees you as if you had never sinned.

- How does the way God sees you affect the way you see yourself?

13. YOU BELONG TO CHRIST!

“... He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.”

Ephesians 1:5-6 NIV

“Predestined” means marked out before-hand. This is another way of saying salvation is God’s work and not your own doing. God has adopted you as His own child. Through Jesus’ sacrifice, He has brought you into His family and made you an heir along with Jesus (Romans 8:17). In Roman law, adopted children had the same rights and privileges as natural children. This term shows how strong your relationship to God is. You belong to God’s dearly beloved Son.

- How does your adoption change your thinking and behavior?

14. YOUR SINS ARE TAKEN AWAY AND YOU ARE FORGIVEN!

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ...”

Ephesians 1:7 NIV

To speak of Jesus’ blood was an important first-century way of speaking of Christ’s death. His death points to two wonderful truths: redemption and forgiveness. “Redemption” was the price paid to gain freedom for a slave (Leviticus 25:47-54). Through His death, Jesus paid the price to release you from slavery to sin. “Forgiveness” was granted in Old Testament times by the shedding of animals’ blood (Leviticus 17:11).

Now you are forgiven on the basis of the shedding of Jesus’ blood, because He died and was the perfect and final sacrifice. Grace is God’s voluntary and loving favor given to those He saves. You can’t earn it, nor do you deserve it. No religious or moral effort can gain it, for it comes only from God’s mercy and love. Without His grace, you could not be saved.

- Do you *think* you are saved? Why?

15. YOU WILL BE WITH CHRIST FOREVER!

“... To be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will ...”

Ephesians 1:10-11 NIV

One of God’s purpose for sending Christ was to unite Jews and Gentiles in one body with Christ as the head. Many people still do not understand God’s plan, but when the time is right (“the fullness of times” KJV) He will gather you to be with Him forever — then everyone will understand. On that day, all people will bow to Jesus as Lord, because they love Him or because they fear His power.

- When do you *think* you will bow before Jesus Christ? Is today too soon?

16. YOU ARE MARKED AS BELONGING TO GOD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT!

*“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation.*

*Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal,
the promised Holy Spirit . . .”*

Ephesians 1:13 NIV

The Holy Spirit is God’s seal that you belong to Him and His guarantee to you that He will do what He has promised. The Holy Spirit is like a down payment, a deposit, a validating signature on the contract. The presence of the Holy Spirit in you demonstrates the genuine-ness of your faith, proves that you are His child, and secures eternal life for you.

His power works in you transforming you now, and is a taste of the total change you will experience in eternity.

- Are you aware of your transformation by the Holy Spirit?
- Are you able to identify the changes He has made in you thus far?

17. YOU HAVE BEEN LIFTED FROM DEATH’S GRAVE TO SIT WITH CHRIST IN GLORY!

*“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him
in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus . . .”*

Ephesians 2:6 NIV

Because of Christ’s resurrection, you can know that your body will also be raised from the dead (I Corinthians 15:2-23), and that you have been given the power to live as a Christian now. Your eternal life with Christ is certain because of Him.

- Does this knowledge provide you with a greater sense of security?

18. YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN NEW LIFE PURPOSES!

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

Because you became a Christian through God’s unmerited grace — not as the result of any effort, ability, or act of service on your part — out of gratitude you will seek to help and serve others with kindness, charity, and goodness, and not merely please yourself. While no action or “work” you do can help you obtain salvation, God’s intention is that your salvation will result in works of service. You were not saved merely for your own benefit, but to serve Him and build up His Church.

“Yet, O Lord, you are our Father.

We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

Isaiah 64:8 NIV

Who do you think you are, anyway?

God is your Creator — you did not create yourself. Many people live as though they are the center of their own little world. This mind-set leads to a greedy possessiveness and, if everything should be taken away, a loss of hope for living. But when you realize that God created you and gives you all you have, you will want to relinquish your rights and possessions to Him — if all is lost, you still have God and all He gives you.

*“... for the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”
I Corinthians 10:26b NIV*

- What rights to you *think* you have that should be relinquished to God?

19. YOU HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR TO GOD, THE CREATOR!

*“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away
have been brought near through the blood of Christ.”
Ephesians 2:13 NIV*

*“And through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.”
Colossians 1:20 NIV*

Christ’s death provided a way for all people to come to God (to be reconciled). It removed the sin that kept you from having a right relationship with your Creator. This does not mean that everyone has been saved, but that the way has been cleared for anyone who will believe. You have peace with God and are reconciled to Him because you have accepted Christ.

- How has your “peace with God” changed your thinking and behavior?

20. YOU ARE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER!

*“I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with
power through His Spirit in your inner being . . .”
Ephesians 3:6 NIV*

*“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13 NIV*

Are you content in any situation you face? You can know how to be content with much or little. The secret is to draw upon Christ’s power for your strength. Learn to rely on God’s promises and Christ’s power to help you be content. Your contentment lies in your perspective, your priorities, and your source of power.

- What do you *think* about when you feel empty inside?

21. YOU ARE ABLE TO ENTER FEARLESSLY INTO GOD'S PRESENCE!

"In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

Ephesians 3:12 NIV

It is an awesome privilege to be admitted into God's presence. Thanks to Christ, you may boldly enter directly into God's presence through prayer. You know you will be welcomed with open arms because you are God's child through your unity with Christ. Don't be afraid of God. Talk with Him about *everything*. He is waiting to hear from you.

- Has God's accessibility changed you?

22. YOU ARE PART OF JESUS' BODY – HIS CHURCH!

"After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of His body."

Ephesians 5:29-30 NIV

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ."

I Corinthians 12:12 NIV

Each part of the body has a specific function that is necessary to the body as a whole. As a part of Christ's body — His church — you have a specific function — a worthwhile function. Your identity in Christ allows you to express your unique individuality within His body of believers. And you have a *spiritual* family with which to share the love of God.

- What specific functions has the Lord called you to bring to His body?

23. YOU HAVE EVERYTHING IF YOU HAVE CHRIST — YOU ARE FILLED WITH GOD!

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

Colossians 2:10 NIV

When you know Jesus Christ, you don't need to seek God by means of other religions, cults, or unbiblical philosophies. Christ alone holds the answers to the true meaning of life, because Christ IS Life. He is the unique source of knowledge and power for the believer's life. No Christian needs anything else than what He has provided. You are *COMPLETE* in Him!

- Do you desire more than God has already provided?

24. YOU ARE SET FREE FROM EVIL DESIRES.

*“In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature,
not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the
circumcision done by Christ ...”*

Colossians 2:11 NIV

Jewish males were circumcised as a sign of their covenant with God (Genesis 17:9-14). With the death of Christ, circumcision was no longer necessary. Now your commitment to God is written on your soul, not your body. Christ sets you free from your evil desires by a *spiritual* operation, not a bodily one.

- What evil thinking and desires has Christ freed you from?

25. YOU ARE DESTINED FOR ETERNAL GLORY!

*“Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too
may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.”*

II Timothy 2:10 NIV

You are free to choose between Life and death, and yet God has chosen you (you are His “elect”). This is a mystery finite minds cannot easily grasp. But even if you do not completely understand it, you can still choose Jesus and His ways, and be grateful that He has chosen you.

- Do you live to please God?

26. NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD’S LOVE!

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him,
who have been called according to His purpose.*

*For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son,
that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

*And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified;
those He justified, He also glorified.*

What, then shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

*He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him for us all—
how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?*

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns?

*Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—
is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

Who can separate us from the love Christ?

Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . .

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,*

neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:28-35, 37-39 NIV

Who do you think you are, anyway?

It is IMPOSSIBLE to be separated from Christ. His death for us is proof of His unconquerable love. Nothing can stop His constant presence with us. God tells you how great His love is so that you will feel totally secure in Him. If you believe these assurances, you will live victoriously — forever!

- **Now, who do you *think* you are?**



May God richly bless you as you seek to please Him!

Jesus said:

**“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.”**

Matthew 6:33 NKJV

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