



LESSON 5:

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Big Idea: Who you are is defined by Christ, not by your past, your mistakes, or the world.

Scripture Anchor: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:3–14



EVERYONE IS SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY

CULTURE SAYS

"Find yourself."

The world tells you to look within, to discover who you are through experiences, achievements, and self-expression.

SOCIAL MEDIA SAYS

"Brand yourself."

Build your image, curate your feed, gain followers, and create a version of yourself that gets the most likes.

THE ENEMY WHISPERS

"Define yourself by your failures."

You're reminded of every mistake, every shortcoming, every moment you fell short.

But here's the truth: identity isn't something you *achieve*, it's something you *receive*.



YOUR TRUE IDENTITY IS FOUND IN CHRIST



2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

"If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here!"



EPHESIANS 1

We are chosen, redeemed, and adopted in Christ. You don't have to hustle for acceptance—you already have it.

Your true identity is not in your clothes, your followers, your grades, or your job. Your true identity is in Christ—and when you know who you are in Him, you'll stop living as a copy and start living as an original.



THREE KEY PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE #1: YOU ARE A NEW CREATION

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

WHAT THIS MEANS

That's not wishful thinking—that's reality in Christ. When you're in Christ, you don't just get an update—you get a brand new operating system.

Galatians 2:20 says, "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." That means your past no longer gets the final word.

THE TRUTH

📖 **"Your past explains you, but it doesn't define you. Jesus defines you."**

Think of software updates. When you update, the bugs are fixed, new features come in, and the old version doesn't run anymore.





PRINCIPLE #2: YOU ARE CHOSEN, REDEEMED, AND ADOPTED

CHOSEN

Ephesians 1:4-5 — "He chose us... He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ."

You were chosen before the foundation of the world.

REDEEMED

Colossians 1:13-14 — "He rescued us... in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Your debt has been paid in full.

ADOPTED

You are brought fully into God's family with all the rights and privileges of a child.

Adoption means you cannot be disowned.

In Roman culture, adoption was legally stronger than natural birth. Adopted children couldn't be disowned. That's how secure your identity in Christ is.

📖 "The world might reject you, but heaven has already accepted you."



THE PRODIGAL SON STORY

In Luke 15, the prodigal son came back hoping to be a servant, but the father restored him as a son. That's redemption and adoption in action.

THE DEPARTURE

The son demands his inheritance and leaves home, rejecting his father's love.

1

2

THE FALL

He wastes everything and finds himself feeding pigs, desperate and alone.

THE RETURN

He rehearses a speech, hoping to become a servant in his father's house.

3

4

THE RESTORATION

The father runs to him, embraces him, and throws a celebration—restoring him as a son.

PRINCIPLE #3: YOU ARE DEFINED BY CHRIST, NOT CULTURE

Culture will try to define you by your success, your failures, your looks, or your followers. But **Romans 12:2** calls us to renew our minds and break free from cultural molds.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

— Romans 12:2

John 1:12 says when you receive Christ, you are given the right to be called a child of God. That's your core identity.



"Don't live for likes—live from love."

Think of a counterfeit sneaker. It may look like the real thing, but it doesn't carry the real brand. The world will sell you fake identities. Christ gives you the real one.



BREAKING FREE FROM MISCONCEPTIONS

1

LIE: "I AM MY MISTAKES"

Truth: You are forgiven and made new in Christ.

2

LIE: "I AM WHAT PEOPLE SAY"

Truth: You are who God says you are.

3

LIE: "I MUST EARN MY WORTH"

Truth: You are already accepted and chosen.

These false beliefs keep us in bondage, but the truth of Scripture sets us free. When we align our thoughts with God's Word, we experience transformation from the inside out.

LIVE OUT YOUR TRUE IDENTITY



SPEAK "I AM" STATEMENTS

Each morning declare: "I am chosen, I am forgiven, I am a child of God." These declarations renew your mind and anchor you in truth.



CHECK THE LABEL

Before making a decision, ask: "Am I acting from who Christ says I am, or from what culture says I should be?"



WALK IN CONFIDENCE

Step into rooms not needing to prove yourself—you already carry heaven's approval. You have nothing to earn and nothing to lose.



THE NAME TAG CHALLENGE

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Take a blank name tag
2. On one side, write a false label you've believed (e.g., "failure," "not enough," "rejected")
3. On the other side, write your true identity in Christ (e.g., "child of God," "chosen," "forgiven")
4. Stick the false labels on the cross
5. Wear your new name tag proudly



DISCUSSION PROMPT

"What false label have you carried—and how does Christ redefine you?"

Share with your group the transformation you're experiencing as you exchange lies for truth.

 This simple exercise helps you visualize the exchange Christ made: He took your shame and gave you His identity.

YOUR IDENTITY IS SECURE FOREVER

NEW CREATION

Your past no longer defines you. You have been made completely new in Christ.

ADOPTION

Your Father has claimed you. You belong to His family with full rights and privileges.

CHRIST

Your true identity is secure forever. Nothing can separate you from His love.

GROUP DECLARATION

"I am a new creation in Christ. I am chosen, I am redeemed, I am adopted, I am a child of God."

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

- Write down 7 identity statements from Scripture (one for each day)
- Declare one every morning this week
- Notice how speaking truth transforms your thoughts and actions



"Stop living like an extra in someone else's story—start living like the main character in the story Christ wrote for you."