

Who Does God Say I Am?

Theme: Identity in Christ

Key Scripture: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* — 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

Opening Story

Several years ago, I watched a young Airman struggle under the weight of failure. He had made a mistake that affected his confidence and his reputation. Although he accepted responsibility for what happened, he couldn't seem to move past it. Every conversation eventually circled back to the same thought: "I'm not good enough."

One afternoon, I asked him a simple question.

"Who told you that's who you are?"

He paused.

"I've just always believed it."

I reminded him that making a mistake is not the same as becoming one. One poor decision did not erase his value, his potential, or his future. He had allowed one chapter of his life to become the title of his story.

As we talked, I realized many of us do the same thing.

Some people define themselves by their failures.

Others by their past.

Some by what others have said about them.

Others by what they see in the mirror.

The world is quick to place labels on us. Sometimes those labels come from childhood. Sometimes they come from disappointment, divorce, addiction, rejection, or regret. Over time, if we're not careful, we begin believing those labels more than we believe God's Word.

But God never intended for your identity to be shaped by your worst moment.

Your identity begins with Him.

Scripture Focus

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Additional Scriptures:

- Genesis 1:27
 - Ephesians 2:10
 - 1 Peter 2:9
 - Romans 8:1
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The Lesson

One of the enemy's greatest strategies is identity confusion.

If he can convince you that you're defined by your past, you'll hesitate to step into your future.

If he can convince you that you're unworthy, you'll doubt God's calling.

If he can convince you that you'll never change, you'll stop pursuing growth altogether.

But Scripture paints a completely different picture.

God says you are His workmanship.

He says you are chosen.

He says you are forgiven.

He says you are redeemed.

He says you are loved.

He says you are His child.

Notice something important: God speaks about who you are before He speaks about what you do.

Our culture often tells us to find our identity in success, careers, achievements, popularity, or possessions. Those things may describe parts of your life, but they should never define your life.

As men, we sometimes introduce ourselves by what we do.

"I'm in the military."

"I'm an engineer."

"I'm retired."

"I'm a business owner."

Those are occupations.

They are not identities.

Your deepest identity is that you belong to Jesus Christ.

Everything else flows from that.

When you know whose you are, you begin to understand who you are.

That changes the way you lead your family.

It changes the way you face failure.

It changes the way you approach work.

It changes the way you handle temptation.

Because you're no longer trying to prove your worth—you are living from the worth Christ has already given you.

Reflection Questions

1. What labels have you allowed to define you?
2. Which of God's promises about your identity do you struggle to believe?
3. How would your life change if you truly believed you are who God says you are?
4. What step can you take this week to replace a false label with biblical truth?

Today's Challenge

Write down one negative label you've carried for years.

Then find one Scripture that speaks God's truth over that label.

Read that verse every morning this week and ask God to help you see yourself through His eyes instead of through your past.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving me enough to call me Your own. Forgive me for believing the lies of my past, my failures, or the opinions of others more than I believe Your Word. Help me to see myself the way You see me—not as broken beyond repair, but as a new creation in Christ.

Teach me to walk each day with confidence rooted in Your love rather than in my performance. Remind me that my identity is secure because it is found in Jesus. May every decision I make reflect the man You are shaping me to become.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

This Week's Takeaway

Your past may explain part of your story, but it does not define your identity. In Christ, you are not who you were—you are who God says you are.