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**(AMPL)** Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].



# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



*101*

*The ABC's for every new believer*

# OUR NEW IDENTITY

## Who Are You?



It seems as early as we can think, we have questions. Some of these answers may take a lifetime to answer. We all have the philosophical thoughts of... “Why are we here?... What is our purpose?... Who am I?”

To better understand and answer the questions regarding our identity, let’s look to God’s Word...Let’s begin...

## I. OUR IDENTITY CONFUSED BY THE WORLD

### A. Is my identity determined by the opinion of others?

YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO:	YOU ARE HOW YOU BEHAVE:
<b>Businessman</b> <b>Housewife</b> <b>Athlete</b> <b>Doctor</b> <b>Lawyer</b> <b>Teacher</b> <b>Preacher</b>	<b>Alcoholic</b> <b>Anorexic</b> <b>Bulimic</b> <b>Schizophrenic</b> <b>Manic</b> <b>Thief</b> <b>Liar, etc</b>

*KJV: Prov.23:7 “As a man thinketh, so is he”*

### B. Is my identity determined by what I think?

**I THINK I AM:**

**...My Physical, Emotional, Spiritual Weakness;**

**...My Fallen Perversion;**

**...A Cat, Jesus or any other delusional identity (ie: smart ;-)**

**(2Cor.4:4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe.**

Like a jar that is designed to be filled with a certain product, we too, are designed to be filled with the Spirit of God, His Life.

Until we are filled with the Spirit of Life, we are just empty jars (*cleaned, sanitized & ready- due to the work of Christ on the cross*) awaiting to fulfill the purpose for which we have been designed.

Once we have made that most important decision and accepted, by faith, the offer of His Spiritual Life (salvation) provided by the resurrected Christ, everything changes. One of the most amazing changes is who we now have become...

**Jn.1:12 But to all who who have believed and accepted (received) him, he gave the right to become children of God.**

### C. Is my identity determined by my religion?

Unfortunately, many times the very place that should provide a source of truth regarding our identity, purpose and power... is just another place of confusion.

The World and the church often impose our identity based on our platform of religious beliefs...

#### **YOU ARE YOUR RELIGION:**

**Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Charismatic, Atheist, Agnostic, Spiritualist or one of those Grace people...**

2Cor 5:17 What this means is that those who become Christians **become new Creations** (new persons). They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. **A new life has begun!**

## II. OUR IDENTITY CLARIFIED BY GOD’S WORD

### A. Our Identity is based on our Father.

**Rom.8:14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are **children of God**.<sup>15</sup> So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like **God's very own children, adopted into his family - calling him "Father, [Abba] Father."** <sup>16</sup> For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that **we are God's children**. <sup>17</sup> And since **we are his children**, we will share his treasures - for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.



## B. Our Identity is based on the Indwelling Spirit

**1. Gal. 4:6** And because you Gentiles have become his children, God has sent the **Spirit of his Son into your hearts**, and now you can call God your Abba Father.

**2. Col. 1:27** For it has pleased God to tell his people that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. For this is the secret: **Christ lives in you**, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.

## C. Our Identity is based on being “IN Christ”

**1. 1Cor 1:30** God alone made it possible for **you to be in Christ Jesus**. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and he gave himself to purchase our freedom.

**2. 1Cor 12:12-13** The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into **Christ's body** by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit.

**3. Rom 12:4-5** Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

**4. Col 3:3-4** For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

## D. Our Identity is based on being Spiritually Alive

**Col 2:13** You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins.

## E. Our Identity is based on being Set Apart

**1. Act 26:16,18** For I have appeared unto thee for this purpose...to open their eyes so they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'

**2. 1Th 5:4-5** But you dear brothers and sisters are not in darkness, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night.

**3. 1Pet 2:9** But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, his very own possession... for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

**4. Eph 5:8-11** For though your hearts were once full of darkness, now you are full of light from the Lord, and your behavior should show it! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, rebuke & expose them.

## F. Our Identity is based on being Citizens of Heaven

**Phil. 3:20** But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

## G. Our Identity is based on being Joint-Heirs w/ Christ

**1. Rom 8:17** And since we are his children, we will share his treasures- (we are **joint heirs**) for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too...

**2. Gal 4:7** Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, everything he has belongs to you (you are heirs).

## H. Our Identity is based on being Righteous

**1. 2Cor. 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the **righteousness**  
of God.



## I. Our Identity is based on being Completely Forgiven

**Col 2:13** You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins.

## J. Our Identity is based on being Totally Acceptable

**1. 1Cor 1:30-31** God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. **He is the one who made us (righteous) acceptable to God.** He made us pure and holy, and he gave himself to purchase our freedom. As the Scriptures say, "The person who wishes to boast should boast only of what the Lord has done."

**2. Eph.1:6** To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

**HOW ACCEPTABLE ARE YOU BEFORE GOD?**

\_\_\_\_\_ % Acceptable / \_\_\_\_\_ % Of The Time

## III. EMBRACING OUR NEW IDENTITY BY FAITH

### A. Our New Identity fulfills our need to belong

**Rom 8:14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into his family-calling him "Abba, Father."

### B. Our New ID fulfills our need of Love, Peace & Rest

**1Jn 4:18** Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us.

### C. Our New ID provides our motivation to yield

**Rom 12:1-2** And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice-the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the

behavior and customs of this world, **but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

*What ID is in your wallet? :-)*

