

14. Identification (According to the World or God)

In the 1960s there was a social movement that stressed the need for people to “find themselves.” Identity remains a crucial issue in our lives. Many of us have been convinced by the people that matter in our lives that we are no good or that we will never amount to anything because of our past failures. Consciously or subconsciously, we live in a way that will validate the image that we have of ourselves in our mind. Spiritually speaking, this becomes a stronghold that manifests itself as a self-fulfilling prophecy. We wonder why our life continues in a downward spiral.

Even when we go to the world to change our lives through addiction recovery, we learn that our identity will remain the same. We are labeled an addict or an alcoholic for the rest of our lives. We are told that is how we must identify ourselves when we introduce ourselves at meetings along with our name. There is even a certain pride in our identity, as we are distinctive from normal people.

When we come to Christ and are born again, we receive a brand new identity.

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).

This seems only logical because an inherent change has occurred. Now the task begins to understand doctrinally, as well as spiritually, who we are in Christ. ***Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God*** (Ephesians 2:19 NKJV).

Just as a person coming to our country must learn what it means to be a citizen including the laws, language, and culture, we must learn what it means to be part of God’s family. You are no longer viewed by God as an orphan, but now are a favored son and part of His body, the church. It will take time spent in an intimate relationship with God for you to fully grasp the magnitude of His love for you. You will learn of His desire to walk with you and guide you through the storms of life. Like any human relationship, your investment of time and effort will determine how quickly you progress. Unlike any other relationship, this one will have abundant heavenly and earthly rewards.

14. Identification

Meditation passage for the week – Ephesians 2

1. Our **Identity** in the world is
 - A. According to our **family**
 - B. According to our **occupation**
 - C. According to our life dominating **sinful behavior**

2. Our Identity according to **God's Word** is modeled after the Israelites (**1 Corinthians 10:11**)
 - A. Apart from Christ / the **Natural** Man /Bound in Egypt (**1 Corinthians 2:14**)
 1. Christ is your **Judge** (**John 9:39**)
 2. The Holy Spirit must **convict** you (**John 16:8-9**)
 3. **Satan** is your master (**John 8:44**)
 4. Self is in **Egypt** (**1 John 2:17**)
 5. **Sin** is prevalent
 6. You are **controlled** by Satan (**Acts 26:17-18**)
 - B. New Believer/ the **Carnal** Christian/Wandering in the Wilderness
 1. Christ is your **Savior** (**Titus 3:3-5**)
 2. The Holy Spirit must **discipline** you (**Hebrews 12:5-6**)
 3. **Self** is the master (**Matthew 16:24**)
 4. Egypt is in **self** (**1 Corinthians 10:4-6**)
 5. **Carnality, immaturity, unbelief** are prevalent (**1 Corinthians 3:1-3**)
 6. You **coexist** with Satan
 - C. Victorious Christian/The **Spiritual** Man/In the Promised Land
 1. Christ is your **Life** (**Galatians 2:20**)
 2. The Holy Spirit **controls** you (**Romans 8:5**)
 3. Christ is the **Master**
 4. Self has been **dispossessed**
 5. **Victory** is evident (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)
 6. You are prone to an **overt assault** by Satan

3. **Faith** must move us from Egypt to the Wilderness (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

4. **Crucifixion** must move us from the Wilderness to the Promised Land (**Gal 2:20**)