

Study Guide

Series: The Battle for Christianity in America

Message: *Our Identity in Christ*

Messenger: Pastor Keith

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Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5.16-17



Objective: to help Christ followers learn how to *live daily* from their *identity* in Christ rather than being defined or directed by their former identity shaped by race and the systems of this world.

Our Text: *Our Identity in Christ*

v16.

‘Therefore, from now on we regard no one **according to the flesh.**’

‘Even though we have **known** Christ **according to the flesh,**’

‘yet now we **know Him thus no longer.**’

Principle: As you recognize who Christ is and His power to transform you, you begin to live out your identity in Him.

Overcoming our natural identity:

- God created race and culture – Acts 17.26
- Every person sees themselves according to the flesh
- You don’t renounce your race (God made it); you renounce race as the source of your first identity before Christ.

‘Your race is no longer your **master** -- it becomes your **ministry.**’

Our identity in Christ shapes our minds, our behaviors, and our values to become like His. What once seemed important loses its grip, and what matters to God becomes what matters most to us.

Application:

v17.

‘Therefore, if **anyone** is **in Christ**’

‘he is a **new creation**’ – renewed not reformed (spiritual)

‘**old** things have **passed away**’

‘**behold** all things have **become new.**’

Principle: You no longer identify with your **past** or the **old person** you once were, but you now live from your **new identity** in Christ.

1. Renew the _____ – Your identity rests in the truth of Scripture and Christ's life, not in others' opinions, your past, your emotions, or your conditions. Romans 12.2:
 - Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world
 - let God transform you into a new person
 - by changing the way you think
 - Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
2. You live _____ what God says – your confessions come from your position in Christ. You live from God's love, not for His love. You live from healing, not for healing. You live from deliverance, not for deliverance. You fight from victory, not for victory. Hebrews 13.5-6
 - For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So, we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. (NKJV)
3. You _____ daily. Each day, we must put our selfish desires to death, continually yielding our will to His. Galatians 2.20:
 - I have been crucified
 - I no longer live
 - The life I now live in the body
 - I live by faith in the Son of God
 - who loved me and gave Himself for me
4. You _____, not react – You *respond* in difficult conditions based on how Christ in character would respond rather than reacting from old habits and emotions. Galatians 5.22-23

Your response in difficult situations is with love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

5. You are _____ with God's thoughts, desires, and emotions. John 17.21

Your 5 levels of intimacy with God: (1) *knowing* God, (2) *experiencing* God, (3) *walking* with God, (4) *loving* God, and (5) *becoming* one with God.