**The Disciples Identity in Christ** Session 3

**Who am I?** It’s a question all of us ask ourselves at some time throughout our lives. Who we are, what we believe, and how we live life shapes not only our character but our perspective on life and eternity.

Some people try to find their identity in things, people, events, power, or even pleasure. True identify for a Christ follower realizes they are fearfully and wonderfully made by the God of the universe (Psalm 139:14). In this session we will learn that **our identity reflects (like a mirror) His identity.** Our identity in Christ redefines who we are and where we put our confidence.

What do we learn about our new identity in Christ from **Galatians 2:20 and 2 Corinthians 5:17?**

**Let’s key in on Ephesians 1:3-14**

**# 1 – Read the passage to yourself.**

**# 2 – Then, if you’re in a group, have someone read it out loud.**

**# 3 – Then, if you’re in a group, everyone read it out loud.**

**Paul gives 6 spiritual qualities that God has deposited into our lives as believers identifying us as disciples of Jesus Christ. What are they?**

**Deposit # 1** – You have been **CHOSEN** by Christ- verse 4

What does this mean to you?

**Helpful notes:** *We have been chosen by God to be His, even before the world was created. Our salvation began in eternity past before we even put our trust in Jesus. He knew us way before we ever knew Him. God the Father chose us not on the basis of what we did, or who we are (because we were not even born yet) or any good works, deeds or merit. He chose us according to the good pleasure of His will. We can do nothing to earn our salvation because it is completely the result of God’s choosing and grace. We may not exactly understand why He chose us, but I know He chose us to be set apart from sin and to be set apart for godly service as His disciple. (John 15:16)*

**Deposit # 2** – You have been **ADOPTED** in Christ– verse 5

What does this mean to you?

We have been adopted as His sons and daughters. In the United States when someone is adopted, they receive all the rights, benefits, and privileges that a biological son or daughter would have.

**Question – What does adoption look like in your culture?**

Christ adopted us and treats us as His very own; giving us the same benefits, and inheritance like everyone else who is in Christ. Praise the Lord, we have been adopted into the family of God.

**Deposit # 3-** You have been **REDEEMED** through Christ – verse 7

What does this mean to you?

**Helpful notes**: *Redemption means the buying back of something or the repayment of a debt (1 Corinthians. 6:20; Colossians 1:14). We have been redeemed by His blood, the forgiveness of sin. We have been purchased not with money but His perfect blood. It’s as if Jesus walked into the slave market of sin and purchased us with His very life. Without Christ we are all slaves to sin but with Christ we have freedom through His blood.*

**Question - What is the most precious gift our heavenly Father has given to His church?**

**Deposit # 4- He has lavished us with wisdom and insight – verse 8-10**

What does this mean to you?

**Question** – Why is the wisdom and insight of God more important than receiving the wisdom of this world? (See also Proverbs 4:1-9)

**Story:** When I think of the word lavish or heaping, I think of when I would go to my Grandma’s house and she would cook lots of food for all of us. When she came to me, she would put so much food on my plate (more than I could ever eat) because she loved me so much. How is God our Father like this? How has He lavished us with His love and concern?

**Deposit # 5-** You have received an **INHERITANCE** from Christ – verse 11

What does this mean to you?

**Inheritance defined**: Something that has been promised to someone in ages past that you will receive upon someone’s death or at an appointed time.

**Question:** What have we inherited through Christ that indicates our identity?

**Deposit # 6-** You have been **SEALED** by the Holy Spirit – verses13-14

What does this mean to you and what do the following verses say about being sealed by the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:23

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

2 Corinthians 5:5

**Helpful notes**: The word sealed indicates ownership by the Holy Spirit guaranteeing our inheritance. What is sealed by the Holy Spirit?

All of these qualities indicate a believer’s identity which never perishes, spoils, or fades – for they are kept in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:4

**Application: How do I live this out?**

1. Out of the 6 spiritual deposits, which one stands out and ministers to you the most? How should these spiritual deposits change us from the inside out?
2. How should our new identity in Christ be different from how people are identified by the world’s standards?
3. How should these truths encourage and strengthen your church when difficult times come?

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