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## New Identity

By Jeff Bedwell on March 8, 2022

**TODAY'S READING:** Galatians 2

One of the most famous verses in Galatians is Paul's ultimate statement of his identity: "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me*" (Galatians 2:20, ESV).

The gospel is clear: As a believer, you are in Christ, and Christ is in you. Your right standing with God comes from God; it is Christ's righteousness *in you*. Paul was saying that not only did he have a new identity in Christ; he also had a new power—*Christ in me*.

Too many Christians seem to think that salvation is basically Christ paying off our sin debt and then leaving it up to us to live a new life in our own strength. I do not only need my debt removed—I need the power of a new life.

That is where we are spiritually. Left on our own, not only are we guilty before God, but we are also incapable of pleasing God or living a life aligned with His design.

The gospel is not just about me being in Christ—where I get His righteousness—but about Him being in me, where I live each day with His power. The Christian's identity is *you in Christ and Christ in you*.

Now, if we are genuinely in Christ by grace through faith, God sees us as someone clothed with Christ's righteousness and filled with Christ's resurrection power. It is not that He minimizes the sin and rebellion still present in each of our lives. He knows it much better than we do. But in Christ, he sees who we now are and who we can more fully become in Christ Jesus even though we often have a hard time seeing and believing it ourselves.

God invites you and calls you to live such an extraordinary—dare we say—supernatural life, but He is not counting on you. He is counting on the power of His Spirit in you to live a transformed life. Paul Tripp writes about it this way:

"Here it is: if you are God's child, the life force that energizes your thoughts, desires, words, and actions is no longer you; it's Christ! God didn't just forgive you. No, he has come to live inside of you so you will have the power to desire and do what he calls you to do. And not only does he live inside of you, He rules all the situations, locations, and relationships that are out of your control. He is not only your indwelling Savior, he is your reigning King. He does in you what you could not do for yourself, and he does outside of you what you have no power or authority to do. And he does all of this with your redemptive good in mind. Since this is true, why would you give way to fear?"

**Prayer:** Father, thank You for the pardon and power that is mine as I am in Christ and Christ is in me. Help me to live more and more out of my new identity and to live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Galatians 3

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