



New Identity

2 Corinthians 5:17

INTRODUCTION

- A. Common reasons why people accept Christ as Lord and Savior.
1. Terror – They received the Lord because they are scared of hell.
 2. Welfare – They received the Lord because of the blessing that goes with it (wealth/prosperity)
 3. Understanding – They received the Lord because they understood the message of salvation.

Note: *The quality of Christian life a person has his determined by the reason of his/her acceptance of Christ.*

- B. The Bible is clear. A person who received Jesus Christ as his/her Lord and Savior is a brand new person (new creation). If we are brand new person, then it is imperative that we have also our new identity. Thus, it is safe to say then that Christian living is not a matter of do this or do that, but a matter of knowing and understanding your new identity and then live it daily.

WHAT IS OUR NEW IDENTITY NOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN?

I. FROM THE EYES OF THE WORLD: We are Christians.

- A. Scriptures that records the word Christian.

1. **Acts 11:27** Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul.²⁶ and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.
2. **Acts 26:28** Then **Agrippa said to Paul**, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”
3. **1 Peter 4:16** however, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

B. Christians (Christianos) is a word made after the patten of Herodianus (Herodians – followers of Herod Matthew 22:16), which means followers of Christ.

The three uses of the word Christian in the New Testament are from the heathen standpoint. Christian was not used as an expression of admiration, rather, it was a derogatory remark associated with the sufferings, humiliation, crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

II. FROM THE EYES OF THE DISCIPLES THEMSELVES

A. Disciples – Acts 6, 1, 2.7; Acts 13:52; Acts 14:20, 21, 22, 28.

1. John 20:30 – Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written than you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.
2. Acts 6:2 so the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to

neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

B. Believers – Acts 1:15; Acts 2:44, Acts 4:32

1. **1 Peter 2:17** Show proper respect to everyone: Love the Brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the King.
2. **Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

C. Saints – Romans 15:25, 26, 31, Ephesians 1:15, 18; Philippians 4:21,22; Colossians 1:4

1. Romans 1:7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be Saints.
2. Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

III. FROM THE EYES OF GOD

A. Child of God

1. We are adopted through Jesus Christ.

John 1:12 Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – 13 Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or husband's will, but born of God.

Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will –

2. We are Heirs of God

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we

are heirs – Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if needed we share His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

3. We are the Apple of God's eyes – Zechariah 2:8-9

a. Sheltered under God's mighty power

Deuteronomy 32:10 in a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings

b. We are God's precious and priceless jewels.

Isaiah 43:4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life.

B. Temple of the Holy Spirit

a. Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.

b. 1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

c. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

CONCLUSION

- A. It is very interesting note that the Disciples never called themselves Christian. Even God Himself never called us Christian. This being the case through Christian means followers of Christ; it is not a guarantee that all Christians are neither Disciples of Christ nor Children of god. Just like during the time of Jesus Christ there were many who were following Him but only few were His Disciples. So with today, only those who know (GINOSKO) are His Disciples and ultimately God's Children.
- B. New identity sparks new role, attitude, character, and lifestyle. Our new role with our new identity is that We are Ambassador of Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:20** We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become righteous of God.

Ambassador means representative, to do the:

- Ministry of reconciliation (God – Man; Man – Man)
- Ministry of peacemaking (God-Man; Man – Man) Matthew 5:9