



EXPLORING
MY IDENTITY
IN CHRIST

A Bible Study

Inspired by Jerry Bridges' Book Who Am I?

by Lisa Horn

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Introduction

As a follower of Christ, realizing our position and identity is the foundation of our relationship with God and the basis of our transformation into the image of Christ. One of the ways we can grow as a believer is to know the truth and renew our minds with biblical truth. The goal of this study is to study and apply biblical truth regarding our identity in Christ that we might find freedom from sin, joy in nearness to God, and change in how we live.

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”

Colossians 1:9-12

I am indebted to Dr. Jerry Bridges for his book, *Who Am I?* His book inspired me to create this study so that I might understand my identity in Christ in a deeper way. If you do this study on your own or lead a group, I encourage you to make the study your own. Do further research on the context of passages and the meaning of words. Take the time to create open-ended questions for discussion. (Hint: Start questions with either *what* or *how*.) Keep before you the focus that the goal of this study is to gain a fuller understanding of what it means that you, as a follower of Christ, are *in Christ* and this truth is the foundation of your identity.

All the Bible passages are in New American Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

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I am a Creature

The purpose of these eight lessons is that you might fully understand both theologically and biblically who you are in Christ. We start with a basic idea, the foundation of our faith. God created us. We will look at a few aspects of the Creator/Creature relationship beginning in the Old Testament.

Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them.

1. What is the basic truth in this verse about humankind's relationship to God?

2. Note that the verse does not just say, "So God created man...." There is more! What is that next phrase and what do you think it means?

*Image of God: At creation, man and woman were given certain aspects of God's nature. This made them distinct from the rest of God's amazing creation. Practically speaking, like God, humans have intellect, emotion and the capacity for choice. As God's creatures and made in His image, we have a relationship of dependence on Him although our human tendency is to go our own way.

Dependence

3. Read each of the following passages and write out an attitude that reveals human tendency to want independence from God. What aspect of God's nature and character is stated in these verses? What does God give us according to these passages?

Psalms 104: 27 They all wait for You to give them their food in due season.

Attitude of independence from God

Aspect of God's nature or character in the passage

What God has given us

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth...

Attitude of independence from God

Aspect of God's nature or character in the passage

What God has given us

Acts 17:25 is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

Attitude of independence from God

Aspect of God's nature or character in the passage

What God has given us

I Corinthians 4:7 For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Attitude of independence from God

Aspect of God's nature or character in the passage

What God has given us

4. How do the following verses demonstrate an attitude of dependence on God?

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want

Matthew 6:30-32 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

The Fragile Nature of Life

5. Think of a day or a time when something happened that completely shook your world. How did you react? What were your thoughts of God at that time?

A reminder: Proverbs 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Although God's presence and power are available to us, we are still vulnerable to the realities of life in the world as well as spiritual forces of darkness.

The Vulnerability of Our Souls

6. What are the ways that Satan and his servants attempt to deceive believers?

2 Corinthians 11:13-25 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness...

7. How are the “men” described in these verses in 2 Timothy? How are the “women” described?

2 Timothy 3:5-6 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

Paul, the author of 2 Timothy uses gendered references here, but men and women are all vulnerable to ungodly and deceptive people.

8. What part of a person is vulnerable according to this verse in 2 Corinthians?

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

9. What common word in these three passages affects our spiritual vulnerability? In the 2 Peter and I John passages, list the specific areas of life where we are susceptible to sin:

2 Peter 2:9 - 10 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment or the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

We have looked at the reality of our existence and our vulnerability both living on the earth and in the spiritual realm. Some people might say, “So what? God created us but He really does not care how we live.” The Bible teaches that we are accountable to our Creator.

10. What do the following verses teach about human accountability to God?

Genesis 4:8-13 *And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.” Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is too great to bear!*

Deuteronomy 28:15 *But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.*

Romans 14:12 *So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.*

Hebrews 13:17a *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.*

As we study more about our identity in Christ, we will learn more about God's great love and acceptance of His creatures regardless of where they have been or what they have done. This chapter provides a foundation for our understanding of who we are in Christ. Before we can understand Christ's place in our lives, we have to understand how we came to be and how we relate to God. In Jerry Bridges' book, he writes that an application to these truths should be growing in humility and gratitude.

Application to My Life

Write out a declaration of humility before God based on this study .

Write a prayer of gratitude to God for all He has done for you.