

Identity

Who was I? Who am I? Who can I be?

Week 1	In Christ
Week 2	Heavenly Citizens
Week 3	Recreated
Week 4	Royalty
Week 5	Heirs
Week 6	Ambassadors

Week 1 – We are IN CHRIST

1. We first must understand who we are without Christ

Rom. 1:21 For although they knew God, **they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became **futile in their thinking**, and their foolish hearts **were darkened**. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools. **V28** And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29** They were filled with all manner of **unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice**. They are full of **envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness**. **They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.** **32** Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them **but give approval to those who practice them**. **2:5** But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are **storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed**. **3:10** "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

If I don't recognise who I am without Christ

- I will think the gap between God and I is small and so the true chasm will never be overcome
- I will create my own moral standard which will not meet God's standard. I will never truly repent (change my thinking)
- Self righteousness and self justification will hinder me from obtaining true righteousness and being justified by God!
- I will think my sins minor and others' more major and so be filled with judgementalism and pride

POINT: Mankind's major problem is we don't know who we are! We don't know how evil, lost and broken we are without Christ. We don't know how transformed, secure and empowered we are IN CHRIST

2. The gate of transformation is being in Christ

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is **in Christ Jesus**, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

Glory: value, worth, significance

Propitiation: Something that appeases God's righteous wrath over sin and washes away the damaging effect of sin

Justified: just – as – if – I – had – never sinned

Grace: undeserved favour (**God's Riches At Christ's Expense**)

Redemption: to buy back from slavery (from sin)

1Tim. 1:14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

3. The benefits of being in Christ are numerous

Communion and connection with God

John 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Gal. 3:26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Rom. 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph. 2:6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Peace & Comfort

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which **surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Phil. 2:1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

Connection with one another despite our differences!

Rom. 12:5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Power to bring the kingdom and bear fruit

2Cor. 2:14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

John 15:4 **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.**

Eph. 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Power to overcome sin & freedom from the effects of sin

Rom. 6:11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Col. 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Innumerable other spiritual blessings!

Guarantee of eternal life - Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (and 1 Th 4:16, 1 Cor 15:22, 1 Peter 5:10)

Supply of need - Phil. 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

(For an exhaustive study see also Eph 1:3, 2 Tim 2:1, 2 Tim 3:12, 1 Peter 5:14, Phil 3:3, 1 Cor 1:4, Gal 2:16)