

Colossians Complement #7

My Identity In Christ

A. How Colossians teaches our identity

1. As an identifying _____, God wants us as believers to know we are “in Christ” (1:2).

^{1:2} To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse:

2. Looking back on our _____ salvation, God wants us as believers to know that Christ has purchased and forgiven us (1:14).

^{1:14} in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

3. To encourage us to be _____ against counterfeit forms of spirituality, God wants us as believers to be assured that we have all we need to walk with God because we are complete in Him (2:6-10).

^{2:6} As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...

^{2:10} and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

4. To _____ us to see counterfeit forms of spirituality, God wants us as believers to know what doesn't fit with our identity in Christ (2:11-23).

^{2:11} In Him you were also circumcised...

^{2:12} buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him*...

^{2:20} Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world...

5. To help us see God's will for our _____ with Him, He wants us as believers to know what does fit with our identity in Christ (3:1-4:6).

^{3:1} If then you were raised with Christ

^{3:5} Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth...

^{3:12} Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on...

B. How other New Testament books teach our identity

1. **Ephesians** – Your wealth in Him and your walk in Him

- In Christ, you have many amazing riches. (Eph. 1-3)
- Therefore, walk worthily of your blessed calling. (Eph. 4-6)

2. **Romans** – Righteousness: needed, given, and reproduced

- All people lack righteousness without Christ. (Rom. 1-3)
- God gives righteousness to the one who believes, no work or religion needed. (Rom. 3-5)
- Don't you know, believer, that you died with Christ and are made alive with Christ? God made you alive in Christ so that it would be possible to say "no" to sin and instead present yourself to God as someone who can do righteousness. (Rom. 6)
- Your flesh is still sinful. (Rom. 7)
- Because you are in Christ, you can now think and live according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8)
- Therefore, as people God has mercifully made fit for service by identifying you with Christ, present yourself to Him. (Rom. 12-16)

3. **1st Corinthians** – Don't you know who you are?!

- You are holy in Christ, but you are living carnal (fleshly) lives, and you have not grown to maturity in Christ. (1 Cor. 3:1-3)
- Don't you know that the Spirit dwells in you? (1 Cor. 3:16)
- Remember that you serve God, the one who made you rich. (1 Cor. 4:1, 7-8)
- Christ has purified us, so let's live pure lives! (1 Cor. 5:6-7)
- Don't you know you belong to God? Therefore glorify Him with your body. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- We have hope of the resurrection because we are in Christ. (1 Cor. 15:22-23)

4. **Galatians** – Freedom in Christ

- The truth of the gospel brings freedom from legalism because we who have believed in Christ have freedom in Him. (Gal. 2:5-7, 14-16)
- Having been justified by faith, I am dead to the law and now am alive to God; so, now I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Gal. 2:19-20)
- You are now a child of God, so don't see yourself as a slave. (Gal. 3:26, 4:6-7)
- Stand fast in the freedom we have in Christ. (Gal. 5-6)

Discussion Questions

1. Which verse stood out to you tonight? Why?
2. Did you learn about your identity in Christ immediately after believing the gospel, or sometime later?
3. What are some alternate identities that you've observed people labeling themselves with?