

“Who Are You?”

An Accurate Self-Image = A Biblical Self-Image

Our core identity does *not* come from:

- What our emotions & feelings tell us
- What other people think about us
- Our actions, history, or morals
- Our families, relatives, or heritage
- Our ethnicity, culture, or nationality
- Our education, occupation, or politics
- Our abilities or gender
- Our physical build or appearance

Who We Are...

All people, including you, have been **created in God's image** (*Genesis 1:26-27*). You have been **“fearfully and marvelously made”** (*Psalms 139:14-15*).

However, everyone has **done wrong** (*Romans 3:23*). Life apart from God is **useless** (*Romans 3:12*). It is only a pursuit of human desires (*Ephesians 2:1-3*). Because of that, people are **under a slavery to sin** (*John 8:34*) and they are **spiritually dead** (*Ephesians 2:1, Colossians 2:13*).

God, though, has mercy on us. By faith in Christ & payment for our sin, we can become **alive** (*Ephesians 2:4-5*) as a **valuable** (*Matthew 6:26*) **new person** (*2nd Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4*). A Christian has been **set free from slavery to sin** (*Romans 6:17-22, John 8:36*). God now calls you **“holy”** (*Colossians 3:12, 1st Peter 2:9*) and you are a **“servant of righteousness”** (*Romans 6:18*).

The Lord says that His people are **chosen and loved** (*1st Peter 2:9, Colossians 3:12*). He calls you a **“child of God”** (*John 1:12, 1st John 3:1-3, Galatians 4:5*). You are **forgiven** (*Ephesians 1:7, 2nd Peter 2:10*) and you are called **“the righteousness of God”** (*2nd Corinthians 5:21*). Your primary, long-term **citizenship is in Heaven** (*Philippians 3:20*).

In Christ, you are **complete** (*Colossians 2:9-10*) and you are **owned by God** (*1st Corinthians 6:19-20, 1st Peter 2:9*). You now live as **“Light”** (*Ephesians 5:8*) in the “Body” and “Building” of Christ (*1st Corinthians 3:9 & 12:27, Colossians 3:15*). As a **“branch” of Christ** (*John 15:5*), you are **God's “temple”** (*1st Corinthians 3:16*). Because of your relationship with The King, you are **royalty** (*1st Peter 2:9*).

→ But these facts about us should not make us prideful; we should be humble because...

- I. We realized we are **unworthy** (*Luke 17:10*) of becoming who we are. It happened by God's grace, which is an *undeserved gift* (*1st Corinthians 15:10*). And so we boast in what God has done and do *not* boast in ourselves (*1st Corinthians 1:26-31*).
- II. We view Jesus as a worthy Leader, and so we choose to **deny any priority or love for our own lives** (*Mark 8:34-35, John 12:25-26*). Instead, we follow His direction.
- III. We realize we are **still capable of being tempted and committing sin** against the One who sacrificed His life for us (*1st Corinthians 10:13, Romans 7:14-25, 1st John 2:1-2*).
- IV. We are commanded to **behave as the kind of new creation** that God has made us to be (*Ephesians 5:8*). As an American may not always act “American,” *Christians* need to be careful to live in a way that honors Christ.