



# Healthy Church: Kingdom Living: What Is Our Identity in Christ?

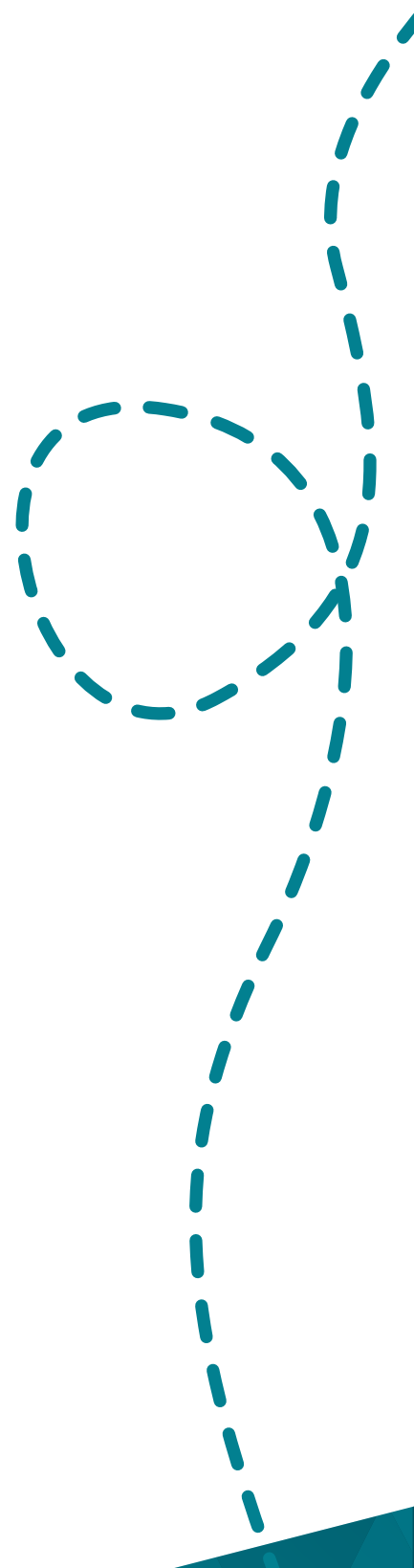
# Identity in Christ

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*Noun*

## Definition

The truth of who we are as those united with Jesus. In Christ we are beloved, chosen, redeemed, and included in God's family. This is our reality not because of what we've done, but because of who Christ is and what he has done for us.



# You are who God says you are

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From the beginning, humanity has wrestled with identity, asking, Who am I? Do I matter? Where do I belong? In Jesus, we receive the most life-giving answer:

- **“You are mine”** (*Isaiah 43:1*).
- **“You are my beloved”** (*Mark 1:11*).
- **“You are a new creation”** (*2 Corinthians 5:17*).

Our identity in Christ is not earned, achieved, or fragile. It is a gift of grace, rooted in the eternal love of the triune God. Before we ever lift a finger, God calls us beloved. Before we believe, he welcomes us. In Christ, we don't have to prove our worth. We live from the worth he gives us.

# How identity gets distorted

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Without Christ, we often define ourselves by what we do, what others think, what we have, or where we've been. These identity markers might seem stable, but they can shift or disappear, leaving us anxious or uncertain.

We may fall into lies like:

- I am what I accomplish.
- I am my worst mistake.
- I am only valuable when I am needed.
- I am invisible or not enough.

But in Christ, those lies lose their grip. He redefines us, not based on our record but on his. Our identity is no longer rooted in performance, pain, or comparison. It is rooted in the love of God expressed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

# What Scripture says about our identity 05

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded again and again of who we are in Christ:

- **Children of God:** “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!” *1 John 3:1 NIV*
- **New Creations:** “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” *2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV*
- **God’s Masterpieces:** “We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works ...” *Ephesians 2:10 NIV*
- **Co-Heirs with Christ:** “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ ...” *Romans 8:17 NIV*
- **Members of One Body:** “You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” *1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV*

These truths are not distant theology. They are declarations meant to reshape how we see ourselves and others every day.

# Why this matters for the Church <sup>06</sup>

When members of the church live from their identity in Christ, the church becomes a place of grace, authenticity, and joy. We stop competing or pretending and instead grow together as a family.

- **We serve** not to prove ourselves but because we know we're already valued.
- **We forgive** not because it's easy but because we've been forgiven.
- **We welcome** others because we've been welcomed.
- **We don't wait to feel "good enough."**  
We live as sent people, empowered by grace.

In a healthy church, identity is not based on how much someone gives, volunteers, or knows. It is grounded in our shared life in Christ, with each person deeply loved and uniquely gifted.

# Living from our identity: not just believing, but becoming

Believing who we are in Christ is not just about mental agreement. It is about spiritual formation. As we live in communion with Jesus and the Spirit shapes us, we begin to become who we already are in him.

This is not instant or individual. It is a journey walked in community, through worship, prayer, service, and sharing life together.

When we struggle to believe we are loved, the church reminds us. When others forget, we get to remind them. Our identity in Christ is deeply personal, but it is never private. It is part of how we embody grace together.



# Next steps for members

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- **Reflect:** Where are you tempted to base your identity on something other than Christ, such as success, failure, relationships, or reputation?
- **Return:** Let the Spirit draw you back to the truth: You are beloved, redeemed, and secure in Jesus.
- **Renew:** Begin each day with a simple prayer: “Jesus, help me live from who I am in you today.”
- **Remind:** Speak truth over others in your church family. Be a voice of grace when someone forgets who they are.



# Resources

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<https://update.gci.org/2017/09/our-true-identity-in-christ/>

<https://update.gci.org/2021/10/identity-in-christ/>

