

CATALYST

A PRAYER INVITATION



Ambassadors For Christ
In Canada

加拿大
基督使者協會

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In Jesus, we do not lose our true selves, but
we become our true selves, only in him.

Identity in Christ from Desiring God

Our identity is constantly shaped by culture, forms of media, our relationships, and our unique individual experiences. We are constantly defining who we are by the world around us. Why is it that we often compare ourselves to others?

Every day we are allowing the world and its values to define who we are. But the problem with this is that our identity is always changing and relative: When will we ever be good enough and measure up? At the core of what it means to be a Christian, it is to receive a new identity from Christ: "In Jesus, we do lose our true selves, but we become our true selves, only in Him." (Desiring God, Identity in Christ)

If Christ is enough for us, then we can be secure and confident with our newfound identity as a child of God. Jesus calls us to disregard the inward lies about ourselves to find true peace in who he is. This month let us focus on how to be confident in our identity in Christ.

DECEMBER : IDENTITY & PURPOSE



DECEMBER

IDENTITY

SCRIPTURE

In Christ, we are fundamentally new and belong to the people of heaven...We have been born again for another world, to a greater kind of existence.

Identity in Christ from Desiring God

WEEK 1: CHILDREN OF GOD

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

GALATIANS 4:4-7

We are children of God. We have been adopted and have an inheritance. The love that God has for us is nothing that we can do to earn His favour. Yet we can still have the opportunity to become his children through Jesus Christ.

You are a child of God who is given His unconditional love:

1. Do you feel God's love for you?
2. Do you feel the need to earn more of His love?

ACTION: For this week, revel in God's presence and spend time with the Father. May you have a deeper understanding of God in your life as His child.



DECEMBER

IDENTITY

SCRIPTURE

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

WEEK 2: CHRIST LIVES IN US

In Week 1, we explored the idea of being adopted through Jesus Christ. But what does that mean or even look like?

This week's passage is from Galatians 2:20 and it speaks on being crucified with Christ. It is no longer us who lives but gave himself for Him to live in us. As Christ lives in us each day, we are being changed because of what Christ has done and it is nothing that we could do on our own.



Our identity should be found in ourselves, but only in Christ.

ASK YOURSELF: Do you do things according to what you believe to be true or is it in God?

Pray and wrestle with what it means to do everything in His name.

With Isaiah 55:8-9, think about this: How is God calling you to live a life that is according to His ways and glorifies Him?

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

DECEMBER

IDENTITY

SCRIPTURE

"Christian selfhood is not defined in terms of who we are in and of ourselves. It's defined in terms of what God does to us and the relationship he creates with us and the destiny he appoints for us."

Identity in Christ from Desiring God

WEEK 3: FINDING OUR WORTH

Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.
Anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

MATTHEW 10:37-39

Sometimes we act on our own desires due to our passions or even living up to the standards that others have placed on us. Jesus says that whoever loves their parents more than Him is not worthy of Him.

The idea is not that we shouldn't love our parents, but to put Him first and obey Him when He calls us. We are to seek an identity in Him. Just as Paul does not seek the approval of man, instead he seeks God's approval. Paul lives a life among those around him so that he can be used by God to share His love with others.

SO WHAT? Where do you find your worth? Is it in your social status/reputation, friends, family, success or do you find it in God?

Is your focus on God and His calling in your life? Or is it through the approval of those around you? It may be unclear what God's calling for you now is, but without seeking for it you will never find out.

ACTION: Pray that your identity is found in God alone and to let go of the things you have distracted and replaced Him with.

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IDENTITY

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Identity in Christ from Desiring God

WEEK 4: LIVING SACRIFICE

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:1-2

As Children of God, we are to live a life that is not only being changed due to Christ's sacrifice, but we must also continue to seek God's will.

This is our daily worship to God:

As we seek God, we are being transformed by His knowledge. By doing so, God forms our identity in Him so that we will not form our identity with the things of this world.

ASK YOURSELF: Are you willing to be a **living and holy sacrifice** to God, a sacrifice as a fragrant aroma that is pleasing to Him?

This is not an easy task. What are some things that you are unable to let go of and give to God?

ACTION: Pray and ask God to help you stand firm in your identity as a child of God in this world.