

# A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

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## “Identity Theft”

It has happened to someone we know or perhaps to us. Someone has taken personal information (financial or otherwise) about us and used it for their own purposes. When this happens we feel violated and have a sense of losing control.

Because of Jesus and what He did for us we now have LIFE, relationship with the Lord, and purpose. However – we have had things happen to us that may affect our relationship and walk with the Lord. A difficult childhood where we were not loved, cared for, or nurtured, a trauma, tragedy or loss, or a difficult situation we are now in that causes stress, pain or fear.

The things that have happened to us or are now happening affect us – what we think (about ourselves), how we speak and communicate and how we behave. We must know who we are, where we are going, and what we are to be doing with the life God has so generously given us. Your identity is not what has happened or is happening, what you think about yourself or what others think of you – your true identity is CHRIST – “*Christ in you the hope of glory*” (Colossians 1:27).

Before we look at what it is to be “IN CHRIST”, we need to look at the one who – from the beginning – has opposed, lied, and held back the truth about who you really are. He will tell you are not loved, that you are not smart, that your life has no purpose, that you don’t “fit” anywhere, that you are not going to make it, that you are useless and hopeless. He will tell you God cannot be trusted, that you will never do enough to please God, that God doesn’t hear your prayers, that God is against you, that God does not care about you, and that the Christian life is a waste of time. ALL LIES! Jesus said “*The thief comes only in order to steal, and kill, and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)*” (John 10:10AMP). Jesus also said about the devil – “... *there is no truth in him. When he speaks a falsehood, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar (himself) and the father of lies and all that is false*” (John 8:44 AMP). Know that the enemy even in this day uses people to question us, accuse us, plant doubt and fear in us about our God and who we really are, about our lives, and about God’s will for us and our future – stealing and lying about our beliefs, our hopes, and our dreams. The very things our God planted in us he will attempt to subvert and destroy.

We must identify with someone or something. Your identity is not how you look, or in the clothes you wear, the house you live in, the money you make, the degree you have or even your ministry or the gifts He has given to you to glorify Him. Jesus identified with His Father and what the Father said about Him. Jesus knew who He was, He knew who had sent Him (the Father), and He knew where He was going (John 8:14). There are many Scriptures that speak of His RELATIONSHIP with His Father. We need to identify with Christ (the REAL YOU is in Christ!) – not people, not circumstances, not what has happened or is happening to us, not position, not social group or anything else. Our identity is Christ – a foundational truth that affects what we believe about God, about ourselves, about our new life, and what we are doing. Before the doing is the “being” – in Christ. Our life in Him is not what we do or our performance – but who we are in Christ. Acts 17:28 says “*In Him we live, and move, and have our being*”. We BELONG TO GOD because of Jesus. We are who He says we are. In Christ – what He did becomes our inheritance. We are “born again” into a new life. We are now separated from the world and separated unto God – a new way of living, thinking, speaking, acting, and walking. This is a process – thank God for His Grace! Thank God He is ever-working in us!

*“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person – the old life is gone; a new life has begun” (2 Corinthians 5:17NLT). “For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether – the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new” (2 Corinthians 5:17 Phillips NT).*

God accepts and approves us because of what Jesus did. We also die – to our old life – and bury it (in Baptism) and are raised to a new life in Christ: Hallelujah!

The following Scriptures declare who you are in Christ (which is your real identity!). You are chosen by God (Ephesians 1:4). He deliberately picked you! May your need to be loved, accepted, and have a sense of belonging be satisfied by and in the One who chose you! Scripture declares *“What a man desires is unfailing love”* (Proverbs 19:22 NIV). In Him we find unfailing, unconditional, and unending love. Glory to God! By and in Christ we were adopted – it was His pleasure and will to do so (Ephesians 1:5)! Because of His love we are now His children (1John 3:1, 2). In Him there is redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, and the cleansing from them (Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 1:7, 9). You have been bought and paid for by Christ

(1 Cor. 6:20). We were reconciled (brought back) to God by the death of His Son while we were still God’s enemies – how much more are we saved by His life (Rom 5:10)! We are declared right in God’s sight (Rom 5:1). He sees us as holy, blameless, and above reproach by what Christ did on the Cross – if we continue in the faith (Colossians 1:21, 22). Part of your identity is your purpose – and there is a purpose for each one of us (Romans 8:28, 30). Part of our purpose is being an ambassador for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20). What he has so wonderfully done for us needs to be passed on – that others may be reconciled to God. It is our privilege and our responsibility. Knowing God – partaking of all the ways He has provided – will result in us being changed and conformed to the character of Christ (Romans 8:29). How glorious it is that those around us, and those we reach out to see, hear, and experience Christ in our company.

We would do well to study and meditate on these truths – to believe, confess and declare to ourselves and our Brothers and Sisters in the Lord who we and they are IN CHRIST. As the world watches us (and they are watching and listening!) may they be drawn to Christ in us – in all His power, love, grace and beauty – that salvation and new life would be their eternal portion.

In Him who loved us and gave Himself for us -  
Toni Quinn  
For His Glory Women’s Ministry

*“It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.  
Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up,  
he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of  
the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.”*

(Ephesians 1:11, 12 THE MESSAGE)