

Spiritual Growth

Repairing & Rebuilding Firm Foundations In Christ

Session Four

My True Image in Christ

Opening Prayer

Objective

- ❖ **See** yourself in Christ.
- ❖ **Acknowledge** that we are not our own, but we belong to God who purchased our salvation with the Blood of Jesus.
- ❖ **Know** that we are called and destined to fulfill the plan of God in our lives.
- ❖ **Understand** why we are to walk worthy of our calling.
- ❖ **See** that we can know how to live and walk in the Spirit.
- ❖ **Determine** to allow God to work change in our lives by giving Him all we are.

Your Identity

Instructor's note: Ask the class if someone can define their identity?

- ❖ **Our identity is found solely in Christ. We belong to Him, we are in Him and He is in us.**

1 Cor 6:14-20

¹⁴By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (NIV)

- ❖ **We are in Him.**

Acts 17:28

"for **in Him we live and move and have our being**, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" (NKJ)

Your Destiny

- ❖ You are predestined to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus.
- ❖ You are called, justified, and glorified.

Rom 8:29-32: ²⁹For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those He pre-destined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all-- how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? (NIV)

- ❖ You have been adopted as children by Jesus Christ Himself.

Eph 1:5-6: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (KJV)

Your Calling

How do we know our individual call?

- ❖ Ask God to reveal it.
- ❖ Get involved in ministry within the Body
- ❖ Determine what you enjoy the most.

What do you enjoy: Do you enjoy being around children or young people? Do you enjoy cooking? Do you have a technical skill that can be utilized? These questions will help you to know where God may be calling you. Get involved in those areas and find out if that's where you are to be. The "JOY" is truly in serving.

- ❖ **Walk worthy of the Call**

*Ephesians 4:1-6: ¹I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***

⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (NKJ)

Why should we walk worthy of our calling? It is our witness to the world.

What is God concerned about? Souls! If we are not walking worthy of our call, what does it tell others about the children of God? It makes them cynical. Our behavior can cause another person to turn away from God. Nothing grieves God more than this.

Let's look at how we can walk worthy of the call.

The Character of the New Man

❖ **Mercy, Kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forgiving, love.**

Colossians 3:12-15: ¹²Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (NKJ)

Instructor's note: Ask several students to share their thoughts about what each word of character means, ie "mercy." And, give an example of when they displayed one of these traits.

Why do we want to put on the character of the new man?

If we do these things we will never fall.

2 Peter 1: 10

*¹⁰Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, **you shall never fall:** (KJV)*

How can we put on these things?

- ❖ Spend time in the presence of God.
- ❖ Reading the Word, praise & worship, praying, giving thanks,
- ❖ Purpose in your heart to do it.

What happens when we spend time with God?

We can also look to Jesus to show us how we should act in every situation. He is our Mentor and Our Model for everything.

Instructor's note: Ask the class to think of a Scripture that clearly outlines the character we should demonstrate in every situation.

Talk about the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:2

Walking in the Fruit of the Spirit

Gal 5:13-25¹³You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (NIV)

Assignment: Find a Scripture reference that defines each fruit of the Spirit.

Closing Prayer

This week's assignment

- ❖ Purpose in your heart to give Him your full attention this week.
- ❖ Don't let anyone or anything pull you away from the things of God.
- ❖ Seek Him. If you want to know something ask Him and He will answer. Don't think that He will part the sky to tell you, although He could. He speaks to us through His Word (it is a mirror), in a still small voice, praise & worship. Anywhere we are entering into His presence, so go there and wait on Him.
- ❖ Journal about the significant things that are happening