

Our True Identity

Ephesians 1:3-8

Ephesians 1:3-8 (NASB)

³“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
⁵He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
⁸which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight.”

When I hear a believer say, “I’m just a sinner,” I feel like responding, “That’s what you used to be.” A lot of folks’ cling to a view of themselves as a patched-up, slightly-better-than-before version of their old self. The Word of God contradicts that opinion: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come*” ([2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB](#)). In fact, according to Scripture, we’re dramatically different once we are complete in the Lord.

The question is, Will Christians trust in what they feel, or will they believe what God says about them? His Word calls us saints ([Romans 1:7](#)), disciples ([John 13:34-35](#)), and fellow heirs with Christ ([Romans 8:17](#)).

Word calls us saints:

Romans 1:7 (NASB)

⁷“To all who are beloved of God in Rome, called *as saints*: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Word calls us saints disciples:

John 13:34-35 (NASB)

³⁴“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

³⁵“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Word calls us fellow heirs with Christ:

Romans 8:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.”

If your opinion is that you are “just a sinner,” then you cannot fully experience and enjoy your identity as a follower of God.

Believing what the Lord says about our new self is a choice. Satan certainly schemes to convince believers that Scripture doesn’t apply to them. He knows that people held captive by

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spiritual poverty back away from opportunities to share the gospel and serve God's kingdom. It's much easier to spiritually bankrupt someone who already thinks of himself as "just a sinner" than it is to conquer a disciple who knows he is a child of the loving heavenly Father.

Our true identity is defined not by our past actions but by the Savior's. Jesus purchased our lives with His blood and brought us into relationship with the Father, who adopted us as His beloved children. We have every reason to hold our heads high, stand firm, and courageously proclaim the gospel.