

OUR IDENTITY

in Christ

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"NO LONGER ABOUT ME"

Galatians 2:20

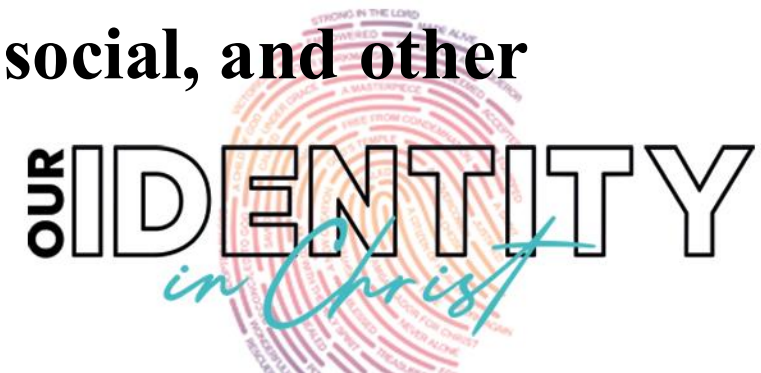
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WHAT MAKES ME...ME?

Identity is our internal sense of who we are. We are shaped by what we believe about ourselves, our experiences, relationships, roles, values, and the groups to which we belong.

Personal Identity - how I understand myself as an individual, including my personality, values, interests, and experiences

Social Identity - how belonging to cultural, ethnic, social, and other groups contributes to my sense of who I am



Relational Identity - how my relationships and roles such as spouse, parent, child, friend, or leader shape how I understand myself

Spiritual Identity - how my beliefs, faith, and relationship with God shape my understanding of who I am



GALATIANS 2:20 (NKJV)

**I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live, but Christ
lives in me;**

And the life which I now live

In the flesh I live by faith

In the Son of God

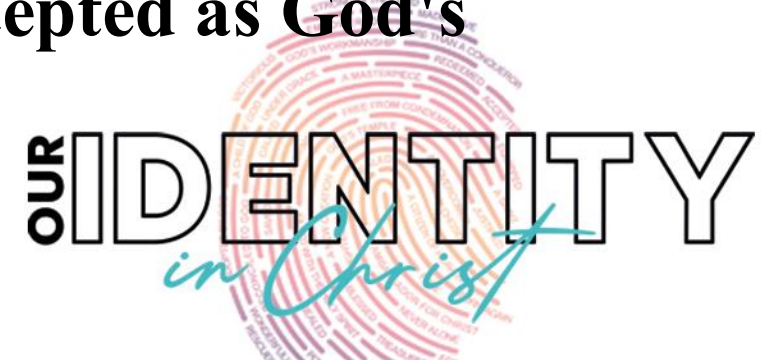
Who love me and gave Himself for me.



UNDERSTANDING GALATIANS

The Bigger Picture - The Apostle Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia after preaching the gospel and establishing them in the region (modern-day central Turkey). These were primarily Gentile believers who had come to faith through his ministry.

The Problem - After Paul left, other teachers began to influence the believers, insisting that faith in Christ was not enough. Gentile Christians were being pressured to adopt requirements of the Jewish law, especially circumcision, in order to be fully accepted as God's people.

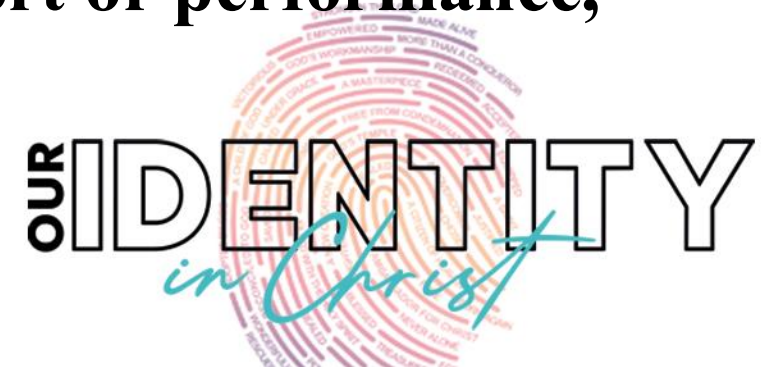


UNDERSTANDING GALATIANS

Paul's Purpose - Paul writes to defend the gospel of grace. He makes it clear that we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ, not by works of the law. His goal is to help the Galatians stand firm in the freedom they have in Christ to live the new life that comes through faith.

Why This Matters

In this context, Galatians 2:20 is a powerful declaration that the Christian life is no longer centered on our own effort or performance, but on Christ living in us.



GALATIANS 2:20a

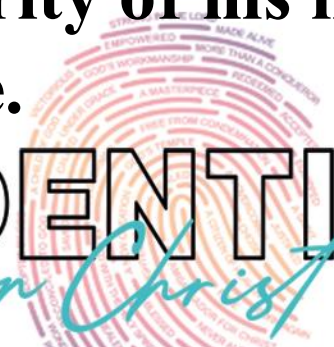
I have been crucified with Christ.

- Paul is not describing a physical crucifixion
- Through his union with Christ, the person he was apart from Christ has died and his former way of defining and governing his life no longer has the final word.

It is no longer I who live.

- Paul has not ceased to exist. He is still himself.
- What has changed is the center and governing authority of his life.
- The old self-ruled way of living is no longer in charge.

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GALATIANS 2:20a

But Christ lives in me

- **Christ is no longer simply someone I believe in, but Someone who now lives within me.**
- **My life now belongs to Christ and is lived under His rule, power, and direction.**

So when Paul says, "It is no longer I who live..."

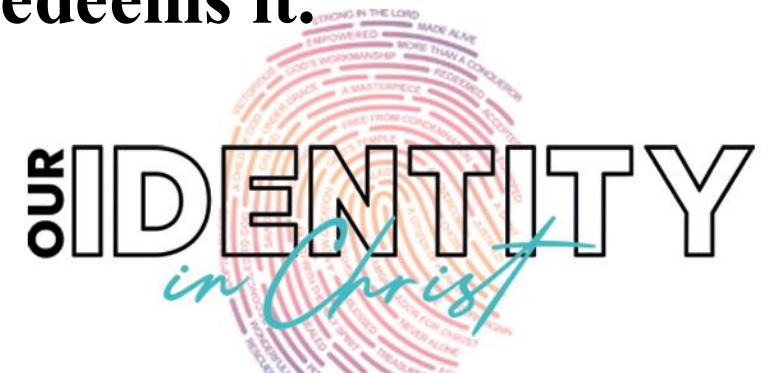
- **He is not saying I disappeared. He is saying the old me is no longer in charge.**



OUR STORY STILL MATTERS

Nothing About You Disappears

- When we come to Christ, our personality, culture, ethnicity, experiences, gifts, and passions do not disappear.
- Our past, including painful experiences and trauma, is still part of our story.
- God doesn't erase what has shaped you. He redeems it.



OUR STORY STILL MATTERS

It's Not About What Defines You, But Who Does

- **These parts of our story can inform how we live, empathize, and serve.**
- **But they are no longer the source or center of our identity.**
- **We are not defined by our culture, past, pain, accomplishments, or roles. We are defined by Christ.**



From Shaped By to Led By

- **Our experiences may shape us, but they no longer have the final say.**
- **Christ now leads, directs, and gives meaning to every part of our story.**
- **What once defined us, now becomes part of the testimony of what God can do through us.**



WHEN ME RETURNS TO THE CENTER

TWO DIFFERENT WAYS TO LIVE. TWO DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

When Me Is at the Center

- **My worth feels tied to what I do or achieve.**
- **My emotions often drive my choices.**
- **Approval from others carries a lot of weight.**
- **I tend to rely on my own strength.**

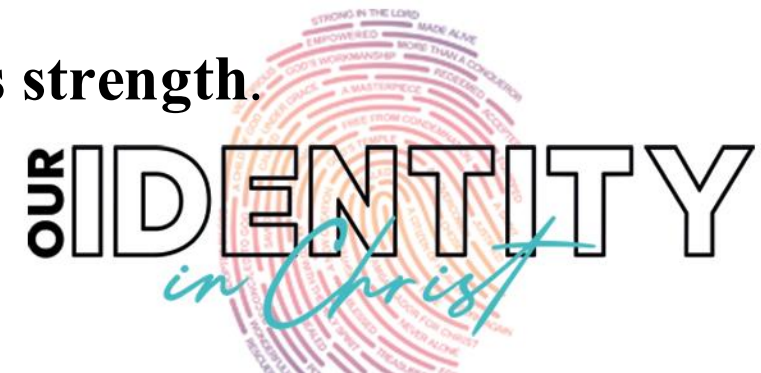
When Christ is at the Center

My identity is rooted in who He is and He has done.

His truth guides my thoughts and choices.

My worth is secure in His love.

I depend on His strength.



When Me Is at the Center

- **My needs and preferences usually come first.**
- **My past can feel like a defining part of who I am.**
- **Comparison and performance can easily creep in.**
- **When life is hard, I often feel anxious, overwhelmed, or out of control.**

When Christ is at the Center

I hold my needs and preferences with open hands.

My past is redeemed and used by God.

I can live with freedom, not comparison.

When life is hard, I experience His peace, Hope, and steadiness.



GALATIANS 2:20b

The life which I now live in the flesh

- **Paul is still living an ordinary human life.**
- **"Flesh refers to his present, physical life in this world, not necessarily sinful behavior.**
- **The old self has been crucified, but Paul is still living here, facing real circumstances, limitations, and challenges.**

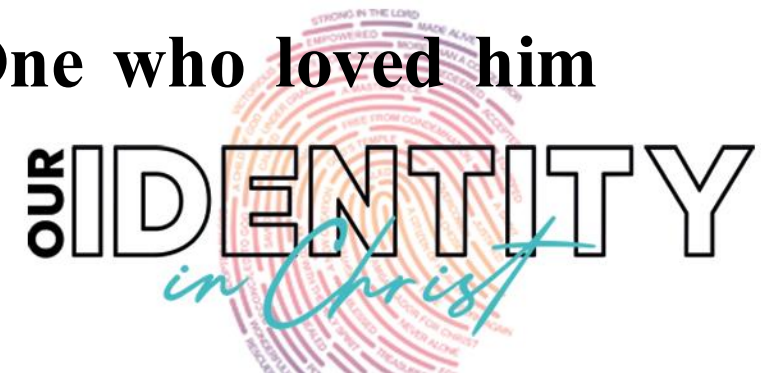


I live by faith in the Son of God

- **This describes how Paul now lives.**
- **His life is characterized by ongoing trust and dependence on Christ.**
- **He is no longer living by his own strength, understanding, or control, but by faith in the Son of God.**

Who loved me and gave Himself for me

- **This is the foundation of the new life.**
- **Paul is not surrendering to someone who is indifferent toward him.**
- **The Christ who now lives in him is the One who loved him and gave Himself for him.**



**The new life is not self-directed.
It is a life of faith, dependence, and
trust in the One who loved us and
gave Himself for us.**

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When "ME" Starts Moving Back to the Center

SOME THINGS TO WATCH FOR

- I become preoccupied with **how I am being perceived.**
- I feel a strong need to **prove myself, defend myself, or be understood.**
- I depend heavily on **approval, recognition, or affirmation.**
- I become consumed with **comparison.**



When "ME" Starts Moving Back to the Center

SOME THINGS TO WATCH FOR

- My **emotions** begin to determine my decisions.
- I rely more on **my own strength** than on prayer, trust, and dependence on God.
- I become **easily offended** when my preferences, plans, or expectations are disrupted.
- I start asking mainly, "**What do I want?**" instead of "**What honors Christ?**"



HOW DO I RETURN TO CHRIST

- 1 Pause and notice.** What is driving me right now? Be honest with myself and with God.
- 2 Bring it to God.** Tell Him what I'm feeling, wanting, or fearing. Nothing is off limits.
- 3 Return to truth.** Ask what Scripture says, not just what feels true in the moment.



HOW DO I RETURN TO CHRIST

- 4 **Surrender control.** Release the need to manage the outcome and trust God with what I cannot control.
 - 5 **Choose obedience.** Do the next right thing, even when it's uncomfortable.
 - 6 **Live by faith.** Keep relying on the One who loves me and gave Himself for me.
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**The life I now live is a life of faith in
the Son of God, who loved me and
gave Himself for me.**

Galatians 2:20b

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