

OUR IDENTITY

in Christ

WHO ARE WE?

WHAT IS OUR POSITION IN CHRIST?

- Holy
- Saved
- Born Again
- Redeemed
- Pardoned
- Sanctified
- Justified

GOD IS "HOLY"

- **Absolute perfection**
- **Unlike any other; His holiness is the essence of that "otherness." He is above and beyond the physical world. God is spirit.**
- **Completely absent of even a trace of sin**
- **God's holiness pervades His entire being and shapes all His attributes. His love is a holy love! His mercy is holy mercy! His anger and wrath are holy anger and holy wrath.**

GOD CALLS US "HOLY"

LEVITICUS 11:44 - 46 (NKJV)

44 For I *am* the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I *am* holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 45 For I *am* the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.



LEVITICUS 19:1-2 (NKJV)

LEVITICUS 20:26 (NKJV)

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BIBLE VERSES IN THE FINGERPRINT:

- STRONGS IN THE LORD
- MADE ALIVE
- E REPOWVERED
- BECOME TRUE CHILDREN OF GOD
- GOD'S WORKMANSHIP
- MORE THAN A CONQUEROR
- RECEIVED
- A MASTERPIECE
- ACCEPTED
- FREE FROM CONDEMNATION
- UNDER GRACE
- NOT UNDER LAW
- FROM ALL UNLAWFUL THINGS
- FORGIVEN ALL OUR INIQUITIES
- JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE
- THROUGH HIS BLOOD
- THE SON OF GOD
- IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING
- WE ARE HIS PEOPLE
- HE HAS CHOSEN US BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD
- TO HIMSELF AS A SPECIAL PEOPLE
- WHO OBEY HIM
- TO SHOW HIS GLORY TO US
- WHOM HE PREPARED FOR HIMSELF
- TO GO INTO GLORY WITH HIM
- WHEN HE SHALL BRING US TO HIMSELF IN GLORY
- WITH HIMSELF
- AND WE WILL BE LIKE HIM
- GLORY AND HONOR AND POWER FOREVER
- AMEN

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WE ARE "HOLY"

Temples, altars, and even days (like the Sabbath) are holy because they are dedicated solely to God's use.

"Holy" primarily means to be set apart or utterly unique.

- **Hebrew root (*kodesh/qadosh*): "to be separate" or "cut off from ordinary use"**
- **Greek word (*hagios*): "different, distinct, or sacred"**

When God told Israel to be holy, He was instructing them to be distinct from the other nations by giving them specific regulations to govern their lives.



WE ARE "HOLY"

- **Set Apart:** "Holy" means to be separated from common or sinful ways for a special purpose.
- **Reflect God:** We are called to mirror God's pure and righteous character in their daily lives.
- **Live Differently:** It involves changing thoughts, actions, and habits to honor God rather than following worldly or cultural patterns.



1 PETER 1:13 - 16 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy ¹⁵ but in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”



WE ARE "HOLY"

Israel is God's chosen nation, and God set them apart from all other people groups. As His special people, there are standards that God wanted them to live by so the world would know they belonged to Him.

- Holy is not just being "good". It means that we belong to a **completely different category**.
- God isn't calling us to be perfect, but to be distinct from the world.
- We are called to "live" differently from the surrounding culture and dedicate our life to God's purposes rather than fitting into culture and worldly patterns.

HOW DID WE BECOME "HOLY"?

- Always remember that our position in Christ is "holy".
- We must daily live a set-apart life, not trying to "blend in" with the world, but instead living according to God's Word.

ROMANS 12:1 - 2 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

HOW DID WE BECOME "HOLY"?

The Bible is active, alive, and transforming. We are made holy by reading the Word of God, by fasting and prayer, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

HEBREWS 4:12 (AMP)

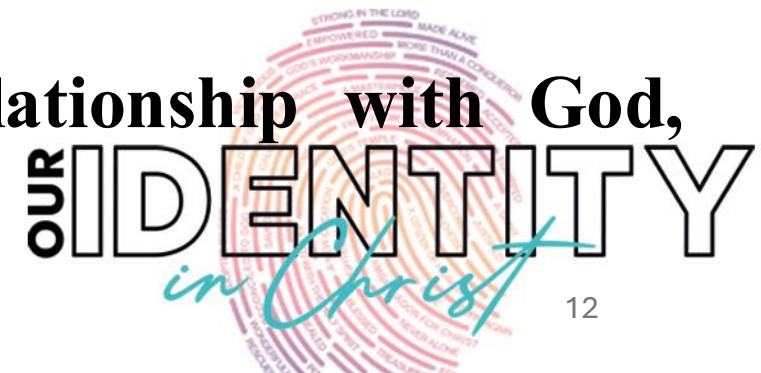
¹² For the word of God is living and active *and* full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

WE ARE "SAVED"

For the Christian, being "saved" means being rescued by God from sin and its penalties through faith in Jesus Christ.

Salvation includes being:

- **Rescued:** The original biblical words (*sózoō* in Greek) mean to deliver, heal, or bring from danger into safety.
- **Forgiven:** Our past, present, and future sins are forgiven because Jesus died on the cross and paid the penalty for us.
- **Restored:** Salvation restores our broken relationship with God, making us His child.



HOW DID WE RECEIVE SALVATION?

EPHESIANS 2:8 - 9 (NKJV)

⁸ For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that **not of yourselves**; *it is* the **gift of God**, ⁹ **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.

- **By Grace:** Scripture teaches that salvation is a free gift from God, not something you can earn through human effort, good deeds, or pay for. It is completely unmerited. You cannot work hard enough to save yourself. Therefore, we can't brag about earning it.
- **Through Faith:** It is received by trusting in Jesus, accepting His gift, and confessing Him as Lord.



THREE TENSES OF SALVATION

There are three tenses of salvation:

- **Past (Justification):** We are saved from the penalty of sin the moment we believe and declared right with God.
- **Present (Sanctification):** We are continually being saved from the power of sin as we grow in faith.
- **Future (Glorification):** We will be saved from the presence of sin when we enter eternal life.



JOHN 3:1 - 7 (NKJV)

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”



⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’



WE ARE "BORN AGAIN"

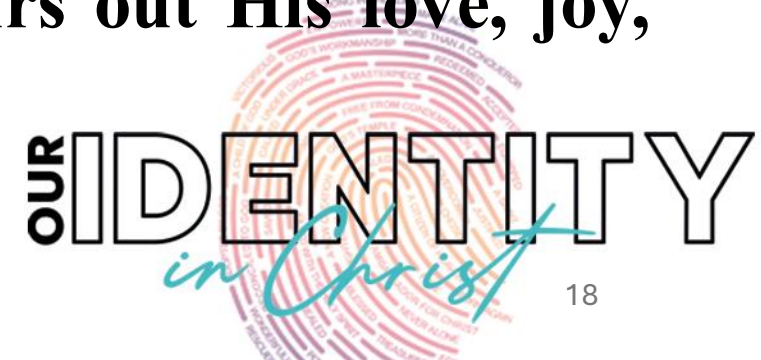
Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus and trying to show him that we must be born of the Spirit.

- **Jesus used the word “Spirit” as a proper noun, meaning that the Spirit is a Person and is the Third member of the Trinity.**
- **Everyone is born of the flesh but only those who are God’s are born of the Spirit.**

Jesus is telling Nicodemus and all who read this passage that all of us must be born again before we can enter the kingdom of heaven.

When we were born again we received:

- **A New Heart:** The very essence (nature) of who we are changes. We receive a new heart, with new desires.
- **A New Identity:** We changed from being an enemy of God to being a friend and a child of God.
- **A New Mind:** We begin to think differently.
- **New Emotions:** We feel differently. God pours out His love, joy, and peace into your heart.



WE ARE "JUSTIFIED"

ROMANS 3:21 - 26 (NKJV)

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

FACTS ABOUT BEING JUSTIFIED

Justification is a free and gracious gift of God to all who receive by faith the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. We are justified, declared righteous, at the moment of our salvation. Jesus Christ finished the work required for our justification on the cross.

- It is **God's declaration** *about* the sinner, and has nothing to do with any change *within* the sinner. It is based on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It comes apart from the law; that is, we cannot earn justification through keeping rules or our own good works.



FACTS ABOUT BEING "JUSTIFIED"

- Justification does not excuse our sin, ignore our sin, or endorse our sin. Rather, our sin is **fully punished by Jesus having taken our penalty for us**. He was our substitute.
- Because the wrath of God is satisfied in Christ, we are **free from condemnation**. God remains both “fair and just, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus”; therefore, we now have peace with God.



WE ARE "JUSTIFIED"

- The **penalty of sin**, which was **eternal separation from God**, is **removed**. We are restored to God's favor, which had been lost due to our sin. So, justification is more than an acquittal; it is full acceptance. We are now friends of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21(NKJV)

21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be sin for us*, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

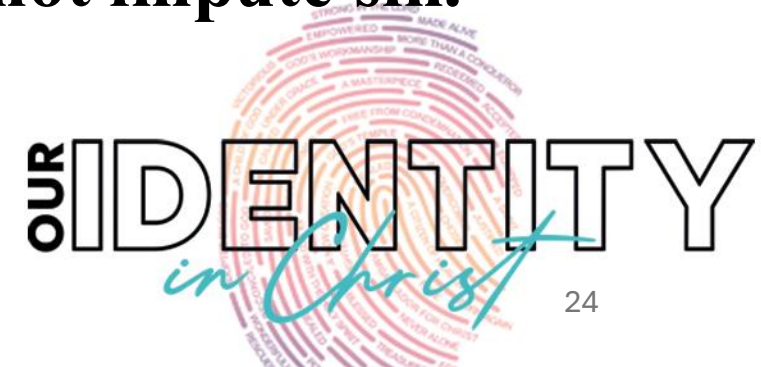


ROMANS 4:5 - 8 (NKJV)

⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, ⁶ just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “Blessed *are those* whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
And whose sins are covered;

⁸ Blessed *is the* man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”



ROMANS 5:12 - 17 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification. ¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

JESUS WAS "SANCTIFIED"

Jesus spoke of Himself as being sanctified. He is holy and “set apart” from sin for God's use. Therefore, as His followers, we are to be similarly set apart from sin and for God’s use.

JOHN 17:19 (NKJV)

19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.



WE ARE "SANCTIFIED"

Sanctification is the act of God of separating us from sin and setting us apart for holiness. To be sanctified is to be “set apart.” Its synonyms are *holy*, *consecrated*, and *hallowed*.

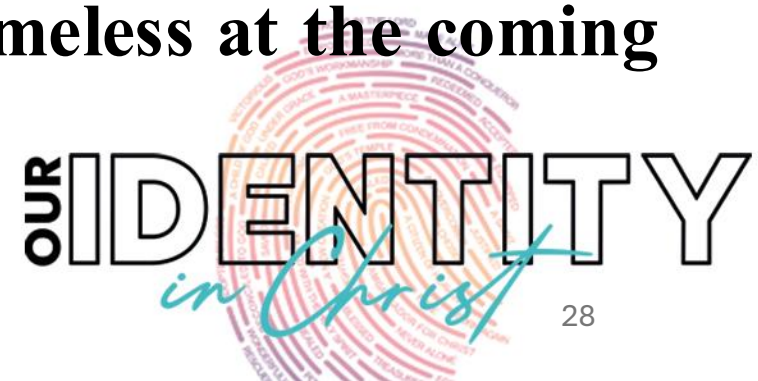
- Things that are sanctified are reserved for God’s purposes and should not be used for ordinary tasks. Just as the temple of old was sanctified for God’s use, our bodies, temples of the Holy Spirit, are set apart for God’s holy purposes.
- Nothing was **considered sanctified** until it had come in **contact with the blood**. Blood was sprinkled on tabernacle furniture, on priestly clothing, and on people.

WE ARE "SANCTIFIED"

- As sinners, we **came to Him “just as we were”** and received His mercy and forgiveness. Then, the Holy Spirit began His amazing work of transforming us into the image and likeness of Christ.
- God loves us too much to leave us "just as we are". The Apostle Paul prayed for our sanctification!

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23 (NKJV)

²³ Now **may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely**; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



THE THREE PHASES OF SANCTIFICATION

- **Positional Sanctification (Past):** God sets a believer apart the moment they accept Jesus, freeing them from the penalty of sin.
- **Progressive Sanctification (Present):** This is a daily, lifelong process where the Holy Spirit helps a person grow more like Jesus and move away from sin.
- **Ultimate Sanctification (Future):** The final state when a believer is completely removed from the presence of sin in heaven.

HOW ARE WE "SANCTIFIED"?

- Sanctification is **cleansing of the heart**. We are unable to do this on our own. We need God's cleansing power of forgiveness to clean up the mess sin has left in our lives.
- We are sanctified when we **realize that we've done wrong against God and feel truly sorry for our actions**. When we take it to God, God immediately forgives and cleanses us.
- **God's transforming work** in our life and heart **through the power of the Holy Spirit** frees us from the pollution of sin, helping us destroy sinful patterns, and relinquish our former wickedness.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23 - 24 (NKJV)

²³ Now **may** the **God** of peace **Himself** sanctify you completely; and may your **whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ **He** who calls you *is* faithful, who also **will do it**.



WE ARE "REDEEMED"

Redemption is related to the word "ransom". Jesus paid the price for our release from sin and its punishment. His death was in exchange for our life. Redemption is only possible "through his blood," that is, by his death.

1 TIMOTHY 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus*, ⁶ who *gave Himself a ransom for all*, to be testified in due time,



COLOSSIANS 1:14 - 14 (NKJV)

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

GALATIANS 3:13 - 14 (NKJV)

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

WE ARE "REDEEMED"

GALATIANS 4:4 - 5 (NKJV)

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

The word redeem means “to buy out.”

- The term was used specifically in reference to the purchase of a slave's freedom.
- If we are “redeemed,” then our prior condition was one of slavery, and we are no longer in bondage to sin or to the Old Testament law.

THE BENEFITS OF "REDEMPTION"

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Eternal life | Revelation 5:9 - 10 |
| • Forgiveness of sins | Ephesians 1:7 |
| • Righteousness | Romans 5:17 |
| • Freedom from the law's curse | Galatians 3:13 |
| • Adoption into God's family | Galatians 4:5 |
| • Deliverance from sin's bondage | Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:14 - 18 |
| • Peace with God | Colossians 1:18 - 20 |
| • The indwelling of the Holy Spirit | 1 Corinthians 6:19 - 20 |

Jesus paid the price to redeem us, resulting in our freedom from slavery to sin and our rescue from the eternal consequences of sin.

WE ARE "PARDONED"

Pardon is the free act of God, as the Sovereign Ruler, removing the guilt of sin and releasing a person from the punishment they deserve.

- **A pardon means God cancels the debt or penalty of sin, treating the offender as if the crime was never committed against His law.**
- **It refers to the act of forgiving or being forgiven for an offense or sin.**
- **It removes the barrier between humanity and God, restores our broken relationship, and brings us back into a right relationship with God.**

PARDONED - OLD TESTAMENT

In the Old Testament, the concept of pardon is linked with the **sacrificial system** and the **covenant relationship** between God and Israel.

- The Hebrew word often translated as "pardon" signifies forgiveness or the act of sparing someone from punishment.
- The sacrificial system, particularly the Day of Atonement, was instituted as a way for the Israelites to receive pardon for their sins. Leviticus 16 details **the High Priest's rituals performed by the to atone for the nation's sins**, symbolizing God's willingness to forgive.

PARDONED - NEW TESTAMENT

In the New Testament, the concept of **pardon is **fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ**. It is often used to denote forgiveness or the release from the penalty of sin.**

- **Greek (*Aphiemi*):** In the New Testament, this term means to "let go off," send away, cancel a debt, or release someone from an obligation.
- **Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross is the ultimate act of pardon, providing a way for all humanity to be reconciled to God.**

PARDONED VS. REDEEMED

- **Pardoned** means your **offense is forgiven**. It addresses what you did.
- **Redemption** reaches further. Being redeemed means you are brought out of bondage and into a new life. It **changes who you are** and **how you can live**. Redemption speaks to what Christ did to free us from sin's power and bring us into a relationship with God.

Example:

- **Pardoned:** A person who has lied can receive forgiveness for the lie.
- **Redeemed:** As they follow Christ, they can leave that pattern behind, learn to speak truth, and use their words to build others up.

PARDONED VS. FORGIVEN

Being pardoned and forgiven are closely related. Both mean an offense is no longer held against you. But they emphasize different things:

Forgiveness is real, and so is the possibility of a changed life.

- **Forgiveness is personal:** “I release my claim against you for the wrong you did.”
- **Pardon is a decision by someone with authority:** “I will not impose the penalty you deserve.”

PARDONED VS. FORGIVEN

Example:

If a child breaks a rule, a parent may forgive the child and also pardon them by choosing not to give a punishment. The parent could forgive the child while still giving a consequence that helps them learn.

Both "**pardoned**" and "**forgiven**" describe God's mercy toward sinners.

- Forgiveness emphasizes His restored relationship with us.
- Pardon emphasizes our release from guilt and judgment.



WE ARE...

Heirs

Redeemed

Citizens of Heaven

Beloved

Forgiven

Righteous

Child of God

New Creation

Sealed

God's Child

Christ's friend

United with the Lord

**Members of Christ's
body**

A saint

Complete in Christ

His special possession

Established

Irreplaceable

Anointed

Salt light

**The branch of the True
Vine**

Chosen

Handpicked

Appointed to bear fruit

God's temple

Precious to Him

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