

# Who Am I? What Is My Identity?

## Three important questions:

1. Who am I?
2. Why am I here?
3. Where am I going?

These three questions have plagued man throughout all humanity. There is something inside of us that is continually crying out for the answer to these questions.

## Who am I?

The only people on the face of the earth who know the answers to these questions are "*born again*" believers. Because as a born again believer I know who I am and it's not an Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, or Lutheran, nor any other church denomination. I'm a child of the living God. That's who God made me. Man makes us all kinds of other stuff.

But God made me into a child of God. "*To as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).*" That's our new identity when we're born again of the Spirit of God. Now, you know who you are when you're in Christ Jesus.

I'm a retired salesman. Selling is what I did, but that's not who I am. I am a child of the living God just like any other born again believer. I just happen to be a child of the living God who happens to be a retired salesman. You might be a child of the living God, who just happens to be a housewife, a doctor, farmer or any other occupation you might be in.

So we have to understand that our identity is not in what we do. Our identity is not in the various denominations or religions.

Our identity is in who God made us. So now you have the answer to that question. So you don't have to wonder who you are; you know. If Christ is in you, then you are a child of the living God.

## **Why am I here?**

I'm here to make my body available for the living Christ to live His life in and through me. Do you remember when Jesus told His apostles, "*It is to your advantage that I go away*" and you may say to yourself; how can that be to our advantage, for Jesus to go away?

Jesus said, "*Unless I go away, then I cannot send My Spirit to live in you (John 16:7).*" So He's saying it's good for you that I am going away (physically) because when I do I'm going to send My Spirit to live in you and you are going to be My body (of believers) here on earth. Because if He didn't leave us when He ascended to heaven, we would never be born again of the Spirit. But He said I'm going to go away and send you My Spirit; My very life, My mind, to live in you and you're going to be My body and My representative here on this earth. Every believer is indwelt by the Spirit of God, that's what it means to be "born again" of the Spirit.

What was Jesus here for? To be available to His Father! "*I don't do anything unless the Father tells Me to do it. I don't say anything unless the Father tells me to say it and incidentally as the Father sent Me, so send I you.*" So why are we here? To be available to the living Christ; to live His life in and through you! Why is a fruit tree branch there? To bear fruit! To be available to the life of the vine; to produce fruit in the branch and to allow the branch to bear fruit to others! "*The branch that bears fruit (Jn.15:2)*" is the believer who is growing more like our Lord Jesus. John 15:8 says, "*By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you be My disciples.*" What it's saying is; as the children of God exhibit the likeness of Christ to the world, the Father is glorified. We have been transformed from being sinners separated from God into being children of God. Others who have known us can see this

transformation, this change in our lives in how we behave and in how we act. People start to notice that there is something very different about you, a real positive change of attitude and love towards others. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us, "*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*"

Please notice that in the three previous verses, Paul describes the works of the flesh as such: "*adultery, fornication, uncleanness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentious, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murderers, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.....will not inherit the kingdom of God.*" It is significant that Paul distinguishes between the works of the flesh, and the fruit of the Spirit. Works are produced by human energy. The fruit is grown as a branch abides in the vine (Jn.15:5). They differ as a factory and a garden differ. Note that the fruit is singular, not plural. The Holy Spirit produces one kind of fruit that is; Christ likeness.

These virtues are pleasing to God, beneficial to others, and good for our selves. But how is this fruit produced? Is it by man's efforts? Not at all! It is produced as believers live in communion with the Lord. As they gaze upon the Savior in loving devotion, and obey Him in daily life, the Holy Spirit works a wonderful miracle. He transforms believers into the likeness of Christ. They become more like Him by beholding Him (2 Cor. 3:18). Just as the branch derives all its life and nourishment from the vine, so the believer in Christ derives his strength from the True Vine, and is thus able to live a fruitful life for God. Now that we are free from the law, we can bear fruit to God (Rm.7:4).

### **Where are we going?**

Heaven: to be with God for all eternity. There is no doubt, it's already assured. We are told with all the assurance that one can get...."*Absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.*" The moment you die physically you are immediately present with the Lord. The moment your eyes close and the next moment we open

up our eyes we're in the presence of God.

So, now all of those age-old questions that people are seeking and searching for throughout their lives are answered in becoming a child of God. I know who I am. I know why I am here and I know where I am going. Now, if that can't bring you peace; then you're in sad shape because that is where peace comes from. My past is over and done with and I can't change it. Whatever happened has happened; now let's go on to this new life in Christ Jesus

The future is God's country and so Jesus said to us... "*Live one day at a time.*" The only time that you can experience faith is right now. You can't exercise faith yesterday; it's gone. You can't exercise faith tomorrow; it's not here yet. But you can exercise faith right now and without faith it is impossible to please God.

### **Let's recap: "Who we are in Christ?"**

Our identity is determined by who or what we are identified with. Discovering who we are is a basic need of every human heart. God has given you a new intensity. If you are in Christ, you are a **child of God** (Galatians 3:26)! Because we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ, we are children of God. That is our new identity.

In this world there are all types of people with all types of different labels attached, but from God's vantage point there are only two kinds of people in this world: those who are in Adam, and those who are in Christ.

To "be in" someone may sound strange to you. But to be in someone means that he is our family head. As such, he has left us his name, his nature, an inheritance, and a destiny. The two family heads in this world are Adam and Jesus Christ. They determine who we are, our nature, our inheritance, and our destiny. The two stand in total contrast to each other.

Through spiritual baptism, God has changed our identity. In Adam, I was Oscar Leske without God's spirit; spiritually dead and a

guilty sinner. Galatians 2:22 tells me that I have been crucified with Christ. That old person is dead and gone. Today, I am a new creation in Christ. Today I am Oscar Leske with God's spirit living in me; spiritually alive and totally forgiven.

If you are in Christ Jesus, you, too, are a new creation in Christ – not because of what you do, but because God has placed you into His Son.

In Christ we are children of God. We are loved perfectly, accepted totally, and seen as perfect in God's eyes not because of what we do, but because of what Christ has done for us. This is our identity in Christ. When we grasp who we are, we will go free. We will be free to serve others and to look after other people's interests, not just our own. There we will find true meaning and purpose to life.

## **Relationship with God**

Churchgoing Christians are confused about Christianity. How to live the Christian life? They go to churches and they often get confused by the messages they hear there. The do's and don'ts of the performance based Christianity. It's time to blow off all these barnacles and just re-discover the real thing.

What Jesus has called us to is a personal, intimate, dynamic relationship with the living Christ. And when we are in a relationship with Jesus our lives get transformed and that's just the way it is. All those years that we spent time in this world we were conforming to this world. But now when we're spending time with Jesus and getting to know Him and growing in His love and grace we're going to see a transformation that takes place in our hearts and souls. We are going to begin to think differently. We are going to begin to believe differently. We're going to begin to look at life from a totally different perspective; through God's eyes, not man's eyes and when we do that, then our actions are going to follow suit and we're going to experience peace. We are going to experience unbelievable joy. We're going to experience a whole new outlook

on life. And if that is something that you're interested in then I would say to you, "start off by reading the New Testament; ask God to open your eyes to His truth and go to a bible believing church or study group to learn, interact and fellowship with other believers."

**Life is too short to miss the real thing – an everlasting relationship with God.**