

Paul pushes very hard for us to identify our lives with who we are in Christ. Many times we *think* we identify with Christ, but our lives (and choices) tend to reveal a different narrative. Today we define ourselves by the job we have (or don't have), the car we drive (or don't drive), the house, family, health, etc...it is all about identity.

What things tend to factor into your view of your identity?

One of the consistent themes in the book of Colossians is the idea of us (as Christians) being "in Christ." Our identity is not meant to be found in what we drive, what we wear, our physicality, but rather, our identity is made up completely in who Christ is and what He has done. Finding our identity in Jesus brings not only a healthy self-attitude, but freedom. Over and over Paul is saying that who we are is not first and foremost external—it's internal. Jesus has remade, renewed, and brought us in.

What is the difference between what God has said about you versus what you tend to say about yourself?

When we see Jesus exert ownership over us in regard to our identity, we see:

- ♦ **In Christ is the only real way to live.**

This is about real identity, who has saved us, who has brought us in, and how. Biblically, our heart, eyes, and mind are opened by the Holy Spirit of God; it is a provision from Him and *not* because we have some sort of intrinsic beauty that God is after.

How has God opened your heart or mind to see Him working in your life?

Our position and identity before God are fixed—they cannot be taken away.

- ♦ **In Christ you are a child of God.**

You are a child of God when you have trusted In Jesus; He has adopted you and given you an ultimate security. We are defined by "I am His."

What defines your life?

Our identity is made not because of our own righteousness, but because of God's righteousness; He has called us His own. Why? Because of the blood of Jesus Christ! Your identity: child of God. Live in that truth because it is the only truth that matters.