

**Xenos Christian Fellowship**  
**Christian Principles Unit 2**  
**Dynamics of Spiritual Growth**  
**Week 3: Our New Identity in Christ**

**Introduction**

"Who are you?"

**Union With Christ**

(1 Cor. 12:13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

" . . . we were all made to drink of one Spirit"	"By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body . . ."

Our new identity in Christ is a major emphasis in the New Testament's teaching on sanctification. In Paul's letters, he refers to this truth at least 126 times (in the identity sense):

"in Christ" occurs 82 times; "in him" 20 times; "with Christ" 12 times; "with him" 12 times

Why is understanding our new identity so important?

Illustration:

Understanding our new identity will also impact others.

Col. 3:1-3\* If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Note the context:

2:10-15

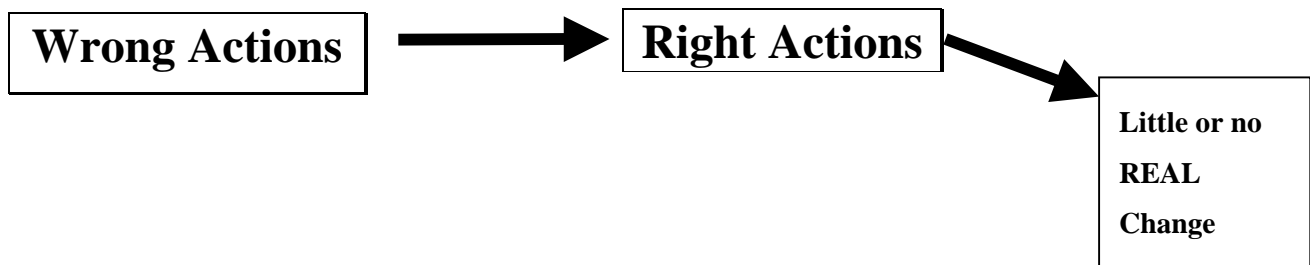
2:16-23

3:1-4

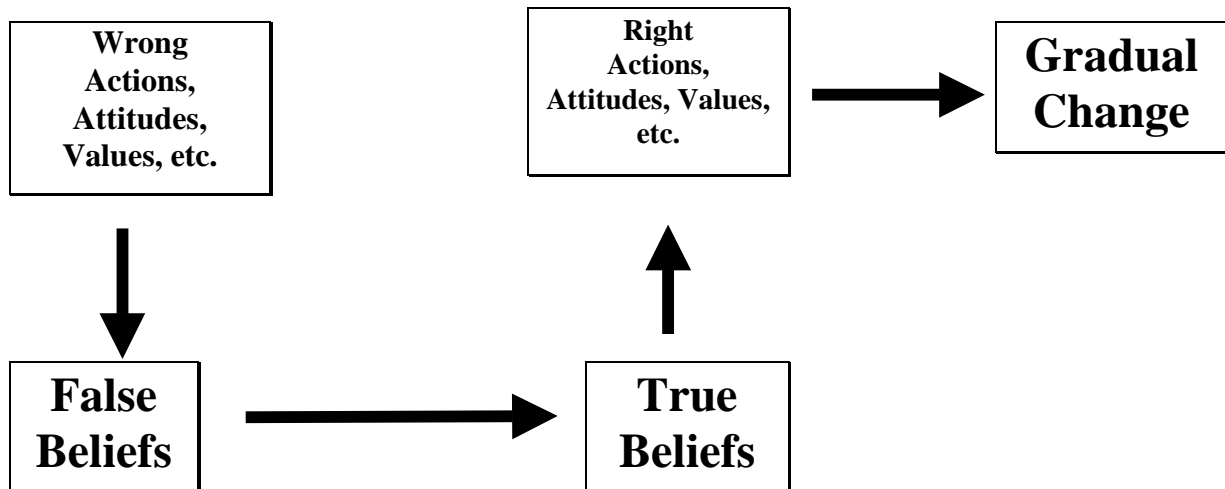
3:5ff.

Two approaches to change:

1. Legalistic approach



## 2. Biblical approach



### Appropriating our New Identity (Romans 6:6,11,13\*) – “Know” → “Consider” → “Present”

**1<sup>st</sup> – Know** Romans 6:6\* knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin...

Learning what the Bible teaches about our new identity, and regularly reflecting on it.<sup>1</sup>

#### Illustration: Emancipation Proclamation

<sup>1</sup> "Your old self was crucified with Christ . . ." Our old identity (in Adam) has been completely obliterated; it no longer exists. See also Jn. 3:3,5; Col. 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17. " . . . so that your body of sin may be done away with . . ." "Body of sin" refers not to your old identity, but to your sin-nature. "Done away with" (katargeo) can mean this, but other passages clearly teach that Christians still have a sin-nature (Rom. 7:17). It should therefore be translated here "made powerless" (NASB margin) or (better) "put out of authority" (see Rom. 7:2 - " . . . she is released from the law . . ." SUMMARY: Our old identity has been destroyed, so that our sin nature has been put out of authority over us. " . . . so that you may no longer be slaves of sin." This is the desired behavioral result. God has struck at the root of the problem rather than leaving us to deal with it by our own will-power.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Consider** Romans 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Choosing to affirm what God says about your identity in spite of all the contrary feelings, thoughts, past behavioral evidence, other people, etc. say about you, in the specific identity area that fuels the expressed sin.

**(D. M. Lloyd-Jones)** “. . . **we must talk to ourselves instead of allowing ‘ourselves’ to talk to us!** Do you realize what that means? I suggest that the main trouble in this whole matter of spiritual depression in a sense is this, that we allow our self to talk to us instead of talking to our self. Am I just trying to be deliberately paradoxical? Far from it. This is the very essence of wisdom in this matter. Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the morning. You have not originated them, but they start talking to you, they bring back the problems of yesterday, etc. Somebody is talking. Who is talking to you? Your self is talking to you. Now this man’s treatment was this: instead of allowing this self to talk to him, he starts talking to himself. ‘Why are you cast down, O my soul?’ he asks. His soul had been depressing him, crushing him. So he stands up and says: ‘Self, listen for moment, I will speak to you’. Do you know that I mean? If you do not, you have had but little experience.

**The main art in the matter of spiritual living is to know how to handle yourself.** You have to take yourself in hand, you have to address yourself, preach to yourself, question yourself. You must say to your soul: ‘Why are you cast down’--what business have you to be disquieted? You must turn on yourself, upbraid yourself, condemn yourself, exhort yourself, and say to yourself; ‘Hope you in God’--instead of muttering in this depressed unhappy way. And then you must go on to remind yourself of God, who God is, and what God is and what God has done and what God has pledged himself to do. Then having done that, end on this great note: defy yourself, and defy other people, and defy the devil and the whole world, and say with this man: ‘I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance, who is also the health of my countenance and my God.’

**. . . The essence of this matter is to understand that this self of ours, this other man within us, has got to be handled.** Do not listen to him; turn on him; speak to him; condemn him; upbraid him; exhort him; encourage him; **remind him** of what you know, instead of listening placidly to him and allowing him to drag you down and depress you. For that is what he will always do if you allow him to be in control. The devil takes hold of self and uses it in order to depress us. We must stand up as this man did and say: ‘Why are you cast down? Why are you disquieted within me?’ Stop being so! “Hope in God, for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance,’ he, ‘who is the health of my countenance and my God.’<sup>2</sup>

Which do you tend toward? Mental passivity or the therapeutic view of feelings?

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<sup>2</sup> D. M. Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1982), pp. 20,21.

Illustration: Emancipation Proclamation

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – **Present** Romans 6:13\* and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

NOTE:

Choosing to step out in faith and act in specific ways that are consistent with your new identity.

Illustration: Emancipation Proclamation

“Presenting” usually involves both a negative and positive step.

**Key Aspects of our New Identity (Eph. 1:3-14\*\*,2; Col. 2; Rom. 6)**

### New Identity Worksheet

This chart emphasizes the importance of knowing how to appropriate your new identity . . .

ASPECT OF OUR NEW IDENTITY	RESULTING SPIRITUAL PROVISION	SYMPTOMS OF NOT "KNOWING", "CONSIDERING", AND/OR "PRESENTING"	EXAMPLES OF HOW TO "PRESENT"
Delivered From Sin Nature's Authority (Rom. 6:6; Col. 2:11,12)	Freedom from sin's control		
Adoption as God's Child (Eph. 1:5)	Belonging: security in the this life		
Forgiveness through Jesus' death for sin (Eph. 1:7; Col. 2:13,14)	Acceptance apart from performance		
Unique role in God's purpose (Eph. 1:9,10; 2:10)	Significance in this life		

ASPECT OF OUR NEW IDENTITY	RESULTING SPIRITUAL PROVISION	SYMPTOMS OF NOT "KNOWING", "CONSIDERING", AND/OR "PRESENTING"	EXAMPLES OF HOW TO "PRESENT"
Inheritance (Eph. 1:11,14)	Security in the next life		
Delivered From Satan's Authority (Eph. 1:20,21; 2:6; Col. 2:10,15;)	Freedom from demonic control		

### Conclusion:

### Memory Verses

Eph. 1:3-14\*\* - key new Identity passage

Col. 3:1-3\* - importance of knowing & setting mental focus on new Identity for sanctification (context)

Rom. 6:6,11,13\* - Know, Consider, Present

### Assignment

Read *Walking In Victory*, chapters 10-12. Write one paragraph summarizing each chapter, and one paragraph (for each chapter) on what was most helpful to you.