

THE NEW I.D.



AGREE/DISAGREE

Who you are determines how you live.

What you believe about who you are determines how you live.



YOUR IDENTITY

2 Corinthians 5:17

IN CHRIST



Being in Christ, and all that it means to Christian maturity and freedom, is the overwhelming theme of the New Testament. For example, in the six chapters of the book of Ephesians alone there are 40 references to being in Christ and having Christ in you: Being in Christ is the most critical element of our identity.

—Neil Anderson, *Victory Over The Darkness* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990), pp.41,42.

DEFINITION

Identity

1. characteristics by which a thing is definitely recognized or known
2. characteristics by which an individual is recognized as a member of a group
3. the condition of being exactly the same as something else



INITIATION

John could hardly believe it. After a long summer of rush functions, he received a bid from the only fraternity he cared about—and now he was a *Nu Gamma Chi* pledge.

He soon realized that being a pledge wasn't exactly what he had expected. Amidst a handful of positive experiences, pledgship was demanding—but it wasn't impossible, and he wasn't going to be the only person to complain. As he endured all-Saturday work sessions and running errands for "the brothers" he thought, *I guess this is what it means to be in a fraternity.*

At last, the night of initiation arrived, and John reveled in this momentous event in his life. He was now a member of *NI'X*—the most prestigious fraternity on campus.

The next semester rolled around, and the members of John's pledge class began to enjoy their new identities as *Nu Gam* brothers. But they noticed that John's schedule didn't seem to change much. He would sit for hours at the Fraternity house answering the phones. He was the only person around the house using the terms "Sir" and "Mr." to refer to the older members. He still was struggling to find time for studies and recreation as he continued to perform all the tasks he had done as a pledge.

One afternoon, after handing in a take-home test for a member's girlfriend, John began washing his former pledge trainer's car ...

As John's former pledge trainer left the house heading for a date, he spotted John. Both amused and embarrassed, he yelled, "Hey John, what are you doing?!"

"Well, Sir" John replied. "your car seemed really dirty, and—"

"No, John!" he interjected. "You're not a pledge anymore! Why are you acting like a pledge when you've already been initiated as a member? Don't you remember that ceremony we had the last week of school? What's wrong with you?"

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAIN-STORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA



What did John believe about his identity?
What difference did this make in his behavior?



IMAGINE

Suppose a docudrama about your life up till now was made and shown on TV.

Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3
Your life before you received Christ	Your new life after receiving Christ with only the parts which reflected your new identity	Your life after receiving Christ, including your thoughts and actions
What would you think and feel as this segment was shown?	What would you think and feel as this segment was shown?	What would you think and feel as this segment was shown?

Exploring the Text



CONTEXT

Romans 5-6:1

Major premise: Christians have been justified by faith so they receive grace from God (Romans 5:1,2).

Minor premise: Grace abounds all the more where sin increases (Romans 5:20b).

Conclusion: Christians can continue in sin so that grace may abound all the more (Romans 6:1).

How would you respond to this argument?



GLOSSARY

SIN VS. SINS – In Romans 6:1-11, Paul refers to sin as a dominating rule of life rather than an individual wrong act. For example, in Romans 5:21, “sin reigned in death,” in 6:12, “do not let sin reign in your mortal body,” and in 6:14, “sin shall not be master over you.”

BY NO MEANS – This phrase in the original New Testament Greek is the strongest language Paul could have used to state his opposition to the question in verse 1. Other translations say: “May it never be!” “Perish the thought!” “Unthinkable!” “What a ghastly thought!” “Not at all!” and “Certainly not!” Paul’s point is to emphasize how unthinkable is the conclusion of “sinning more.”

UNITED – Means to become as one or to be put together as one. It involves the biological concept of growing together as in the fusing of broken ends of a bone so that they are no longer separated in any way and are one.

CRUCIFIED – Graphic depiction of our death to remind us of our identity with Christ.

BODY OF SIN – Fleshly body no longer controlled by sin.

DONE AWAY WITH – Sin’s control of the Christian’s body is rendered inoperative. Because the old self is crucified, the body of the believer may have “rigor mortis” when it comes to sin.

FREE FROM SIN – The word “free” may also be translated “justified.”



DEFINITION

The Greek word *bapto*, from which we get the word *baptize*, means literally “to dip,” “to plunge,” or “to immerse.” The fuller (a person engaged in the cleaning and dying of cloth) took raw, undressed cloth and put it into the dye vat. When that cloth was brought out of the dye vat, its entire appearance was changed.

When it is used literally, it had to do with dipping, plunging, putting something into something. But in its metaphorical usage it means to “to change identity,” that is, to change appearance, to change the outward form in which this thing met the eye. Paul is not saying we have been dipped in a dye pot but, rather, we have changed our identity by forming our new union with Jesus Christ.

–J. Dwight Pentecost, *Designed to be Like Him* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1972).

ROMANS 6:1-11

- 1 What shall we say, then?
Shall we go on sinning so
that grace may increase?
- 2 BY NO MEANS!
We died to sin: how can we live
in it any longer?
- 3 Or
don't you know
that all of us who **were baptized**
into Christ Jesus
were baptized
into his death?
- 4 We were therefore buried with him
through **baptism**
into death
in order that, just as Christ was
raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a new life.
- 5 If we have been **united** with him like this
in his death, we will certainly also be
united with him in his resurrection.
- 6 **For we know**
that our OLD SELF was crucified
with him
so that the BODY OF SIN might
be done away with,
that we should no longer be
slaves to sin—
because anyone who
has died has been freed from sin.
- 7 Now if we **died** with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.
- 8 **For we know** that since Christ was
raised from the dead,
he cannot die again;
death no longer has mastery over him.
- 9 The death he died,
he died to sin once for all;
but
the life he lives,
he lives to God.
- 10 *In the same way,*
COUNT YOURSELVES DEAD TO SIN
but
ALIVE TO GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.
(emphasis added)

What phrases are used to describe involvement with sin?

What activities do believers share with Christ?

What are some results of being united with Christ?

What do verses 9 and 10 say about the nature of Christ's death?

What is the basis for the command in verse 11?



SUMMARIZE

How would you summarize the central truth Paul is seeking to communicate?

Exploring Your New Identity



ROMANS 6:11

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The first command given in the book of Romans



DEAD TO SIN

When did you die to sin?

How did you die to sin?

Why did you die to sin?

What does it mean that we are "dead to sin"?



ALIVE TO GOD

When were you made alive?

How were you made alive?

Why were you made alive?

What does it mean that we are "alive to God"?



QUOTE

The root of holiness is co-crucifixion and co-resurrection with Jesus Christ We need then, to realize and remember that the believer's holiness is a matter of learning to be in action what is already in the heart.

—J.I. Packer, *Keep in Step With the Spirit*
(Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1984).

Because you have a transformed identity and are united with Christ, you don't have to live under sin's control.

Exploring the Difference



IMAGINE

Imagine that you die and go to heaven where you receive your new, resurrected body—one without a sin nature. After enjoying your new life for a short time, God sends you to continue your new life back on earth. How would you live differently?



KEY

We don't have to live the way we used to live because we're not who we used to be!



ACTION PLAN

- In Segment 3 of my personal docudrama on page 1, what sin pattern (thought or action) causes me shame?
- What is the truth about my involvement in this sin?
- How can I apply the truth to this struggle?
- What role does confession and the Spirit's filling play in this process?

For further thought:

1. Study Romans 6:11-14 in light of the truths you've learned today. Use a concordance or cross-references.
2. Look up statements that are true of you in Christ. Begin with:

Ephesians 1:3-14 Ephesians 2:10
Ephesians 2:6 Ephesians 2:13

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society.
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