

What It Means to Unlock Your Identity in Christ

In today's society, insecurity and self-rejection have reached an all-time high. More than ever before, so many people simply don't like themselves.

Over the years, I have met countless people who believe God is angry with them because they haven't "arrived" at the place of perfection. As a result, they live in a state of perpetual frustration—continually rejecting themselves and feeling bad every time they make a mistake.

But Jesus didn't give His life for us to walk around feeling guilty and condemned. He wants us to feel good about ourselves and our relationship with Him. And it all starts with discovering our true identity in Christ.

Are You a Believer or an Achiever?

For many years, I tried to please God with my works. It seemed as if I was living on a performance treadmill—always trying to do something to feel good about myself and feel like I was in right standing with Him. In the process, I became weary, worn-out and unhappy. I would think, *Something is just not working.*

I was right. No matter how much we love God and choose to do what's right, we will always be frustrated until we understand this life-changing truth:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8, NIV).

There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation or right standing with God; we have been made right with Him through our faith in Jesus Christ. A believer who is lacking this

understanding is like a jumbo jet on the runway with no gasoline—he has all the equipment but is going nowhere!

In His mercy, God allowed me to see that there was absolutely nothing I could do to make Him love me any more or less than He already did. All He wanted was for me to believe in Jesus, “the one he has sent” (John 6:29b) and receive the righteousness He has provided.

See Yourself Through God’s Eyes

In order for us to experience true freedom and grow in our relationship with God, we must learn to accept ourselves right where we are and see ourselves the way God sees us. As we do, we will begin to understand that becoming like Christ is a process that takes time ... and God will be faithful to finish the good work He has started in us (see Phil. 1:6).

Second Corinthians 5:21 says, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

This is the basis of self-acceptance—knowing that God accepts us through Jesus and sees us as totally righteous. This does not mean that we don’t sin anymore or that we can dismiss it like it’s no big deal. It simply means that God loves us even while we are in the process of becoming like Christ—before we have “arrived.”

For example, when she was two years old, one of our granddaughters would throw fits when she didn’t get her way. She’d throw herself on the ground and scream uncontrollably. Now, even though I disliked her behavior, I still loved her tremendously. I don’t stop loving my grandchildren or kick them out of the family because they do wrong things. I love them and work with them to develop the good character I know they need to succeed in life.

The same is true with God, our heavenly Father. He doesn’t

love our wrong behavior, but He certainly loves us. Romans 5:8 says that He proved His love for us by sending His Son “while we were still sinners.” In other words, He didn’t wait until we were righteous to send Jesus—He sent Jesus because we would never be righteous without Him.

Put On Your Robe

Isaiah 61:10a says, “I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness.”

What does this mean for us? It means when we make mistakes, God literally has us covered with His robe of righteousness. So when the enemy comes against us with thoughts of guilt or condemnation, we can stand firm against his accusations. We can stand on God’s Word and say ...

“I am the righteousness of God in Christ. I am clothed in His righteousness—not mine. The Bible says that if I confess my sin, God is faithful to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I am loved!” (see 1 John 1:9).

God is on your side, and He wants you to feel good about yourself and the progress you are making. So don’t spend your time frustrated because you haven’t “arrived.” God is not mad at you because you aren’t perfect—He is only disappointed if you quit running the race. {eo}

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s teaching resource Knowing Who You Are in Christ. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling 800-727-9673 or visiting .

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and *Your Battles Belong to the Lord (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of

stations worldwide. For more information, visit .