

WHO I AM IN CHRIST | PART 1

NOTES

Adopted and Accepted

Core Theme: Identity Crisis & God's Solution

Culture's Problem: Identity crisis – people don't know who they are, leading to lostness and lack of purpose

Believer's Advantage: We have the answers through understanding who we are in Christ

Key Principle: We live from what we believe to be true about ourselves
If I think I'm a loser; I act like a loser
If I believe I'm strong; I engage situations with strength

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S WORD IN IDENTITY FORMATION

Creator Knows Creation: Only God truly knows us better than we know ourselves

Instruction Manual Principle: Like any product, we need to go to the manufacturer's manual

Word of God as Guide:
Light to our path (Psalm 119)

Should be the ONLY source shaping our identity (not supplementary)
External sources cause us to drift away from truth

SERIES STRUCTURE: THREE R'S

REDEEMED – What we already ARE (because of what He's done)
RECREATED – Who we are continually BECOMING
REPRESENTATIVE – Who we are called to BE (for His glory)

1. ACCEPTED

Key Verse: Romans 15:7 – “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you”

Core Truth: We ARE accepted (not trying to become accepted)
This is where we START, not where we're trying to get to
Removes pressure and performance mentality
Frees us to live FOR Him because we're loved, not to EARN love

Personal Impact:
Takes the weight off trying to hit certain markers
Shifts motivation from earning acceptance to pleasing out of love
Like a child wanting to please their loving father who already accepts them
Removes the “loser” mentality and victim thinking

CHOSEN

Key Verse: John 15:16 – “You did not choose me, but I chose you”

Core Truth: Jesus did the choosing, knowing you completely
We didn't pick Team Jesus; Team Jesus picked us
He chose us knowing everything we would/wouldn't do
We're all “first pick” on Team Jesus

Personal Impact:

Brings humility - we contributed nothing
 Keeps pride in check
 Creates gratitude and blessing
 Allows God to mold and shape us from a place of surrender

ADOPTED

Key Verses: Ephesians 1:4-5 - "Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us... God decided in advance to adopt us"

Galatians 4:6-7 - "You are no longer a slave, but God's own child... God has made you his heir"

Acceptance vs. Adoption

ACCEPTANCE = Being wanted and chosen
 ADOPTION = Legitimacy and permanency

The Belonging Factor:

Not just invited as a guest, but you BELONG in the family
 Legal member with full rights and inheritance
 From slave → son/daughter
 Can call God "Abba" (Daddy) - intimate relationship
 Shifts entire lineage and destiny

Roman Adoption Context:

Signing adoption papers completely changed lineage
 Future generations were affected
 Total transformation of identity and rights

Key Takeaway

1 John 3:1 - "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are."

This is WHO WE ARE (not who we hope to become):

ACCEPTED - Right now, fully accepted
 CHOSEN - Hand-picked by Jesus himself
 ADOPTED - Legal family members with full inheritance rights

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have the voices of the world, past wounds, or even religion distorted your sense of identity—and how do these distortions still affect your decisions, relationships, or how you see God?

2. If you fully believed you were already accepted by God—not tolerated, not on probation, but delighted in—how would your spiritual life change? What fears or striving would fall away?

3. How do we challenge deep-rooted performance mindsets and awaken intimacy with the Father.

4. There is a tension between divine choice and personal brokenness; the truth of grace, so when Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you.” What does it do to your soul to know you were chosen in full knowledge of your weaknesses? What does that tell you about His kind of love?

5. Where in your life are you still living like an outsider in God’s house—afraid, guarded, or hesitant to fully belong? What would it take for you to truly walk in your full inheritance as a child of God?

Challenge: Throughout the course of the week consider the following and write them down. Find scripture that will reinforce the following:

a. How do we invite vulnerability and surrender; move from theory to transformation?

b. Do a brief study on what Adoption looked like in the ancient world. From that brief understanding, how does that move the dial in understanding your identity and inheritance in Christ?

NOTES