**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment IV – *Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith* Progressive Bible Concepts - #43 “Your Identity in Christ”**

**Thoughts on Identity:**

* Who is the most important person in your life?
* Insight – we tend to see ourselves the way the most important person in our life sees us.
* Entity – a self-c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ object or person
* Identify – d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who a person is, to define a person
* Identity – c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of entity (who you are) and identify (how you define yourself)
* Hence, identity is the definition or sense of self based upon personal m\_\_\_\_\_\_-u\_\_(real or perceived)
	+ Every person has d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ qualities or character traits

Examples - fingerprint, DNA, blood type, etc

* + Everyone has a distinct personality – Self concept is established by psychological i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which comprises a definition of personhood

**Personal Identity – Formations**

**How our self concept is formed:**

* Events and experiences shape our lives
* We develop a collective self perception based upon how we interpret and process these events and experiences
* We tend to be shaped, not by the things we have done, but by the things that have been done t\_\_ us
* We tend to place more weight on the negative things that happened to us
* We tend to think negatively about ourselves when we are denied something n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in life (no such thing as normal)
* We can reap bad decisions for extended periods of time

**Personal Identity – Reformation:**

* For Christians, the identity questions must be answered by r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wrong perceptions and e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the truth of Scripture
* Who I am not:
	+ The s\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of myself perceptions
	+ The accumulated facts of my life history
	+ What o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believe about me
* Whose I am not – I am not my o\_\_\_\_ – I Cor 6:20
	+ Life is not about m\_\_\_

**Personal Identity Reformation**

* Who I am – what God, my Creator thinks about me
* Whose I am:
	+ I am God’s child bought with an incalculable price, set apart for eternal purposes
	+ I am the craftsmanship of God – “God don’t make no junk”

**Identity and Design:**

* Definition – the m\_\_\_\_\_\_-u\_\_ of one’s personhood
* C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the image of God – Gen 1:27
* R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the image of Christ *-* Eph 4:24,Col 3:10
* *P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the image of God –* Phil 3:20,21

**Identity and Salvation – Core Text:**

* *“I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in Me; and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God; who loved me and delivered Himself up for me.”* Gal 2:20
* *I have been crucified with Christ – sunestaupomai –* perf ind passive - Signifies a **joint** **sharing** of crucifixion – a past, completed event that has ongoing, present tense effects
* *“I have been crucified together with Christ”* – “This language suggests that Paul is thinking of that specific completed event which marked his identification with Christ and which has an enduring effect upon his life and his identity. “ Biblical Commentary
* Our i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ is based upon our i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.

**MY TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST**

**This is who I am in Christ despite my feelings, circumstances, or the opinions of others.**

* ***Affirmation:*** *“I am what I am by the g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God…” I Cor 15:10*
* ***Implication:*** I am not the great “I AM” (Exod 3:14, John 8:58), but by the grace of God, I AM W\_\_\_\_\_\_ I AM.
* **Affirmation:** *“Therefore if any man is i\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold things have become new.”*
* **Implication:** I am a N\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor 5:17)
* **Affirmation:** *“As many as r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him, to them he gave the right to become children of God…”* (John 1:12)
* **Implication:** I am a C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.
* **Affirmation:** “Paul…to the church of God…those who have been s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus, saints by calling…” I Cor 1:2
* **Implication:** I AM a S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by calling.
* **Affirmation:** *“For we have become p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ… Heb 3:14*
* **Implication:** I Am a PARTAKER (s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) of Christ; I share in His life and His eternal kingdom.
* **Affirmation:** *“For in Him all the fullness of deity d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…and in Him you have been made full (complete)...”* Col 2:9,10
* **Implication:** I am F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
* **Affirmation:** “For we are His *w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Eph 2:10
* **Implication:** I AM God’s **WORK** of **ART**.
* **Affirmation:** *“The Spirit bears witness without spirit that we are heirs of God and j\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ…”* Rom 8:16, 17
* **Implication:** I am a F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ H\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in His inheritance.
* **Affirmation:** “You are the s\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the earth.” Matt 5:13
* **Implication:** I am a P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that upholds good and holds back evil.
* **Affirmation:** “You are the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world.” Matt 5:14
* **Implication:** I am a force of c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a confused world.
* **Affirmation:** “For our c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in the heavenly Jerusalem…the city of the Living God” Phil 3:20, Heb 12:22
* **Implication:** I am a CITIZEN of the heavenly world, no longer e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**My Identity in Christ – Who Am I in Christ?**

* **As a Christian Scripture Reference**
* I AM what I am by God’s g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I Cor 15:10
* I AM a new c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ II Cor 5:17
* I AM a child of God in His f\_\_\_\_\_\_ John 1:12
* I AM a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God’s calling I Cor 1:12
* I AM a p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ’s divine nature Heb 3:14
* I AM c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Col 2:9, 10
* I AM God’s w\_\_\_\_\_ of a\_\_\_\_ Eph 2:10
* I AM a fellow h\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ Rom 8:16, 17
* I AM the s\_\_\_\_\_ of the earth Matt 5:13
* I AM the l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world Matt 5:14
* I AM a c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of heaven Phil 3:20

**“I AM” Summary Statements**

* You are no longer a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (one set apart of God). You have received forgiveness for all of your sins, past, present, and future, and, therefore, there

is not any condemnation from God – nor can there ever be! (Hebrews 10:10, 14-18; Romans 8:1).

* You are no longer b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to your past or to what you were. You are a brand new creature in Christ Jesus. The old ‘you’ died, and you have been made brand new. Therefore, you are able to walk in n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of life (Galatians 2:20; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6: 4-7).
* You are no longer a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to s\_\_\_\_, but you are now a servant of righteousness. Therefore, you don’t have to let sin rule in your body (John 8:34-36; Romans 6).
* You are no longer part of the kingdom of d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but you have been seated in heavenly places above all the power of the evil one and his demonic forces (Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 1:19-23, 2:4-6).
* You are no longer rejected but are a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Beloved – just as you are – because God chose you for Himself before the foundation of the world. You have been adopted as God’s dear child and are sealed by His Spirit, Who guarantees you will live with God forever (Ephesians 1:3-14).
* You no longer have to fear the c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your past, for your sovereign God promises that He will cause everything in your life to work together for your good and Christlikeness (Romans 8:28-30).
* You no longer have to fear being rejected, abandoned, left alone, or left without h\_\_\_\_\_\_. God has promised to never leave you or forsake you so that you can boldly say that He is your Helper, therefore, you need not fear what man will do to you (Hebrews 13:5-6).
* You no longer are to fear not having exactly what you n\_\_\_\_\_\_. God promises to supply all of your needs through Christ Jesus you Lord (I Corinthians 3:21-23).
* You no longer have to fear d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for you cannot die before your time. Jesus holds the keys to hell and death. If and when you die, you will be immediately absent from the body and present with the Lord (Revelation 1:18; II Corinthians 5:8-9).

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**Thoughts in Identity:**

* Who is the most important person in your life?
* Insight – we tend to see ourselves the way that ‘\_\_\_\_\_\_’ person sees us.
* Since God is the most important person in a b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lives, we need to see ourselves as He sees us.
* Our i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ is directly linked to our i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.

Personal Analogy – The Man from LaMancha and His Lady, Aldonza

**Discussion Question:**

* My greatest tendency is to ground my identity in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than in just being a follower of Jesus.

**Summary** – **Concept 43**

* God, the great I AM of the OT, and Jesus, the great I AM of the NT, is the basis of the believer’s I AM statements which are foundational to the believer’s new identity in Christ.

**Next Week** – **Concept 44 - Our Great Salvation**