



In the course of our studies, we have seen that we were made *by* God and *for* God, and that our true purpose in life is found in Him. We discussed the first purpose: “you were planned for God’s pleasure” and how that manifests itself in *worship*. Then we considered the implications of the second purpose: “you were formed for God’s family” and how that is demonstrated in *fellowship*. Today we embark on a new stage of the journey as we consider the third purpose: “you were created to become like Christ” with its application to *discipleship*.

The most important thing that can be said about who you are is what *God* says. And He has said plenty. As one who is created in the image of God, you have dignity and worth (Genesis 1:26). As one who is re-created (born-again) in Christ, you have a new identity (see John 3, 2 Corinthians 5:17). Dr. Neil Anderson, in his book, *Victory Over the Darkness*, says, “The more you reaffirm who you are in Christ, the more your behavior will begin to reflect your true identity!” (Visit <http://www.ficm.org/whoami.htm> for details).

Rick Warren (pp. 176-77) says, “You are a work in progress. Your spiritual transformation in developing the character of Jesus will take the rest of your life, and even then it won’t be completed here on earth. It will only be finished when you get to heaven or when Jesus returns. At that point, whatever unfinished work on your character is left will be wrapped up. The Bible says that when we are finally able to see Jesus perfectly, we will become perfectly like him: “*We can’t even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when He comes we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is*” (1 John 3:2 NLT).

“To change your life, you must change the way you think. Behind everything you do is a thought. Every behavior is motivated by a belief, and every action is prompted by an attitude. God revealed this thousands of years before psychologists understood it: ‘*Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts*’” (Proverbs 4:23; see page 181).

1. Please complete the following sentence. “*If I were more like Jesus, I would . . .*”
2. Humanity has the imprint of the *Imago Dei*, the image of God. What does that mean and what are the implications? (Genesis 1:26-27)
3. You are a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). As you look at the attached list, chose 1 or 2 that are especially significant to you today. Explain why you chose them.
4. Read Philippians 2:12-13. What is God’s role in our salvation? What is your role? Is there a difference between *working out* our salvation and *working for* our salvation (see Ephesians 2:8-10 and page 181).
5. Read Ephesians 4:17-24. What are some characteristics of the old self? The new self? What role does your mind play as you seek to be more like God?
6. Read Matthew 22:15-21. The image or portrait on the coin (or person) implies ownership. How will you complete this sentence? “*To be more like Jesus today, I will . . .*”

*“As the Spirit of the Lord works within us,
we become more and more like Him and reflect His glory even more.”
(2 Corinthians 3:18b NLT)*



1. I am accepted

I am God's child.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)

I have been justified.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.

But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

I am a member of Christ's body.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. (Ephesians 1:3-8)

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14)

I am complete in Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:9-10)

I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

2. I am secure

I am free from condemnation.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God.

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble

or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39)

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

I am hidden with Christ in God.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

I am a citizen of heaven.

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil. 3:20)

I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:7)

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. (1 John 5:18)

3. I am significant

I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. (John 15:16)

I am God's temple.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:6)

I am God's workmanship.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence.

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)

I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)