

WHO AM I?

FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

PART 1 OF 3
IN THE **BE TRANSFORMED** SERIES

WHO AM I?

FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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**HARVEST
BIBLE
CHAPEL
PEORIA**

A NOTE FROM PASTOR TIM

Dear Harvest Family,

We are launching on an **adventure** this ministry year! We will be digging deep into the awesome **character of our God** and His amazing plan of **life transformation** for us.

All too often we hear the **Bible** used as a tool to manipulate shame or control behavior. But that is not God's purpose. He has unfolded **a story** that includes His love, His power, His presence, and His glory. He has revealed to us how He will work in the **broken hearts of man** to put on display **His awesome glory**.

Our job: to **worship** Him and to **be transformed!** Two steps with one end goal. The call to worship is our call to action. The call to be transformed is in the passive form and is a call to humble submission.

In a **3-part series** we will look at our **identity** in Him, our **struggle** with self, and how we can experience lasting God-honoring **victory** and change.

This first series is a **big God series**. We will walk through the first half of **Ephesians** and watch as God reveals His perfect plan - well thought out, enacted from eternity past, and offering up a deeply personal walk with Him. **Who am I?** That is best answered by seeing who I am in Christ!

I am praying that you are stunned by His greatness, humbled by His holiness, and transformed by His glory. May God rock you this ministry year!

In Him,

Pastor Tim



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THE PRAYER

No endeavor should be undertaken without bathing the decisions and steps in prayer. Our request is that each Sunday service, each time in daily reading, and each Impact Group night will have these requests as a focus.

My Prayer Goals

- ❑ Make the name of Jesus Christ famous (1 John 1:2)
- ❑ Grasp the greatness of my God (Ps. 145:3-7)
- ❑ Be unified as one body (Eph. 4:1-6)
- ❑ Drink deeply of abundant joy in my God
(2 Cor. 8:2)
- ❑ Glorify God as I am shaped by Him (1 Cor. 10:31)
- ❑ Identify what in me needs to be transformed
(Ps. 139:23-24)
- ❑ Repentantly hand over all of me to Him
(2. Cor. 3:16-18)



THE PLAN

So what's the plan? Glad you asked. The next couple of months are designed to walk us as a body through a divine adventure. Our sermons, Impact Group times, and daily reading plans will all dovetail. Total immersion in one direction... God being glorified in the end!

This booklet will be your road map. Each day of each week is completely defined within this booklet. This and your Bible is all you will need for the next two months.

So here is what we are asking you to do...

Your Steps

- ❑ Attend Sunday service each week
- ❑ Attend Impact Group
- ❑ Read the Bible each day from the daily reading plan
- ❑ Allow God to stir your heart

WHO AM I? **Chosen**

week 1

Our God is actively, sovereignly
invested in this world and in my life.
I love Him because He first loved me.



SERMON NOTES

I AM CHOSEN - **EPHESIANS 1:1-6**

Intro:

1. _____ your Heavenly Father who has _____ so much with you (1-3)

2. _____ with your Father who _____ you with plan and purpose (4)

3. _____ your Father who predestined you to _____ through your brother Jesus Christ (5-6)

Reading plan

MONDAY ■

Romans 8:28-39 - Called, justified, glorified

TUESDAY ■

1 Peter 1:1-12 - Living hope

WEDNESDAY ■

1 Peter 1:13-25 - Called to be holy

THURSDAY ■

1 Peter 2:1-12 - A royal priesthood

FRIDAY ■

Ephesians 1:7-10 - I am redeemed and forgiven



IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

Opening: From this passage, what truth about your identity in Christ impacted you the most?

1. From verses 4-6, list the “spiritual blessings” with which Christ has blessed us. What is significant about each blessing?

2. What does it mean for you, in your present circumstances, to be holy and blameless before Him?

3. Read Romans 8:12-17 and Galatians 4:1-7. What are the benefits and expectations of being His adopted child?

Application: What is one way you can apply the truth from this passage to your current circumstances?



ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO AM I? Redeemed

week 2

While sin is devastating, my God has an awesome, tender plan to address my sin.



SERMON NOTES

I AM REDEEMED & FORGIVEN - **EPHESIANS 1:7-10**

Intro:

1. In God the Son we have _____ and
_____ (7-8)

2. In God the Son we will be _____ as was originally
intended (9-10)

Reading plan

MONDAY ☐

Psalm 32:1-11 - *He forgave my sin*

TUESDAY ☐

Psalm 103:1-22 - *He crowns me with mercy*

WEDNESDAY ☐

Psalm 130:1-8 - *Plentiful redemption*

THURSDAY ☐

Colossians 1:1-14 - *Delivered from darkness*

FRIDAY ☐

Ephesians 1:11-14 - *I am sealed*



IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

Opening: From this passage, what truth about your identity in Christ impacted you the most?

1. List the action words/phrases from this passage and explain their significance to your spiritual walk.

2. Explain the following phrases:

- a. In Him
- b. Redemption through His blood
- c. Riches of His grace... lavished on us
- d. Mystery of His will

3. How can a proper understanding of the Father's forgiveness change the way we love and live with others?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-30. What do these verses tell us about the world's view and understanding of salvation?

Application: Redemption has the idea of being delivered from a state of slavery. How have you seen God working this out in your life in regard to sin?

What step(s) can you take to live out this truth in your life?



ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO AM I?
Sealed

week 3

Through the work of the Son and Spirit, I have a glorious inheritance with an absolute guarantee.



SERMON NOTES

I AM SEALED - **EPHESIANS 1:11-14**

Intro:

1. In Him we obtained an _____, for His glory (11-12)

2. In Him we were _____ by the Holy Spirit as an absolute guarantee (13-14)

Reading plan

MONDAY ■

Psalm 16:1-11 - *A beautiful inheritance*

TUESDAY ■

Romans 8:12-27 - *The Spirit testifies with our spirit*

WEDNESDAY ■

John 14:15-27 - *Our Helper forever*

THURSDAY ■

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 - *The Spirit gives freedom*

FRIDAY ■

Ephesians 1:15-23 - *I am enlightened*



IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

Opening: From this passage, what truth about your identity in Christ impacted you the most?

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9.

a. What are some characteristics of our inheritance from God?

b. Explain how understanding our inheritance helps us through the hard times here on earth.

2. What is the significance of being sealed with the Holy Spirit?

3. How can our understanding of being sealed with the Holy Spirit affect perspective on our circumstances?

4. From Ephesians 1:11-12

a. Explain the phrase “the counsel of His will.”

b. What is God’s purpose in working all things to the counsel of His will (v. 12)?

c. What are the characteristics of a person who is living out that purpose?

Application: What is one way you can apply the truth from this passage to your current circumstances?



ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO AM I? Enlightened

week 4

I can personally know my God, His power, and my future.



SERMON NOTES

I AM ENLIGHTENED - **EPHESIANS 1:15-23**

Intro:

1. I can know my stunning _____ personally (15-17)

2. I can know my awesome _____ assuredly (18)

3. I can know His unmatched _____ experientially (19-23)

Reading plan

MONDAY	Isaiah 61:1-11 - <i>Beauty for ashes</i>
TUESDAY	Philippians 2:1-11 - <i>At the name of Jesus</i>
WEDNESDAY	James 3:13-18 - <i>A spirit of wisdom</i>
THURSDAY	Hebrews 1:1-14 - <i>Jesus is supreme</i>
FRIDAY	Ephesians 2:1-10 - <i>I am alive</i>



IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

Opening: From this passage, what truth about your identity in Christ impacted you the most?

1. *"Because I have heard of your faith... and your love." (v. 15)* In light of this verse, write down your testimony. Have a few people in your group share their testimony.

2. What are some obstacles, attitudes, or circumstances that hinder you from showing love toward your fellow saints?

3. Read James 3:13-18. What are the characteristics of Godly wisdom versus worldly wisdom?

4. What phrases from this passage describe the authority of Jesus?

Application: What characteristics of Godly wisdom do you need to pursue? What characteristics of worldly wisdom do you need to give up, let go, or get rid of?



ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO AM I?
Alive

week 5

**My God has taken me from
death to life. He deserves all my
worship and service.**



SERMON NOTES

I AM ALIVE - **EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

Intro:

1. _____: We were _____ in our sins, unable to respond to God (1-3)

2. _____: God made us _____ together with Christ (4-9)

3. _____: Now we are _____ to bring Him glory as we serve Him (10)

Reading plan

MONDAY ■

John 8:31-47 - *The devil lies*

TUESDAY ■

John 10:1-18 - *Jesus gives life*

WEDNESDAY ■

Romans 5:1-11 - *Peace with God*

THURSDAY ■

Titus 2:1-15 - *Zealous for good works*

FRIDAY ■

Ephesians 2:11-23 - *I am reconciled*



IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

Opening: From this passage, what truth about your identity in Christ impacted you the most?

1. Describe the attributes of God in verses 4-10. Share the attributes of God that you're most thankful for and why.

2. Compare/contrast being dead in sin (1-3) and being alive in Christ (4-9).

3. What kinds of good works does God call us to walk in?

a. Galatians 5:22-25

b. Colossians 3:12-17

4. Why is it so important to remember that good works follow salvation?

Application: Which do you find most difficult (and why): Remembering you were dead in your sins? Worshipping that you've been made alive? Or celebrating your God through serving Him?



ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO AM I? Reconciled

week 6

I was separated because of my sin,
but I now have peace with God
through Jesus Christ.



SERMON NOTES

I AM RECONCILED - EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Intro:

1. _____: We were _____ from Christ without any hope (11-12)

2. _____: Christ is our _____, bringing Jew and Gentile together as one through His _____ (13-18)

3. _____: As One, we are being _____ into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit (19-22)

Reading plan

MONDAY	John 10:22-39 - No one can snatch them from God
TUESDAY	Luke 15:11-32 - Faithful Father
WEDNESDAY	Colossians 1:15-23 - He made peace by His blood
THURSDAY	Hebrews 10:11-23 - Full assurance
FRIDAY	Ephesians 3:1-13 - I am a fellow-heir



IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

Opening: From this passage, what truth about your identity in Christ impacted you the most?

1. Read Romans 2:29 and Colossians 2:11.

a. What do these verses say about our position in Christ?

b. How do we still try to live/perform/work to gain God's grace through our own strength?

2. Paul describes the division between the Jews and the Gentiles as the "dividing walls of hostility." What causes dividing walls of hostility in the Church today?

3. How does God call us to build unity in the church?

Application: Is there a relationship in which you need to pursue restoration, or assist someone else in their restoration of a relationship? Or, is there a way you can promote unity in your own life (Impact Group, where you serve, in your home, etc.)?



ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO AM I?

A Fellow-Heir

week 7

My God is all about unity. He is calling together believers from all times and places as He makes us a family and shows off His glory.



SERMON NOTES

I AM A FELLOW-HEIR - **EPHESIANS 3:1-13**

Intro:

1. _____: We are made members of _____ body by
Jesus Christ (1-6)

2. _____: We have the privilege of _____
the unsearchable riches of Christ (7-10)

3. _____: Do not lose heart in the midst of suffering. You
have boldness and _____ through faith (11-13)

Reading plan

MONDAY	John 1:1-18 - Children of God
TUESDAY	Hebrews 2:5-18 - He is the founder of salvation
WEDNESDAY	Galatians 3:15-29 - Heirs according to the promise
THURSDAY	Galatians 4:1-7 - Heirs through God
FRIDAY	Ephesians 3:14-21 - I am empowered



IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

Opening: From this passage, what truth about your identity in Christ impacted you the most?

1. Paul speaks of the mystery of ministering to the Gentiles in verses 3-6. Read Acts 22:6-22 for a better understanding.

a. What message from God did Paul describe in this passage?

b. How did the Jews respond to this message in verse 22?

c. What does this tell you about the significance of the mystery?

2. What are some practical ways you can more effectively “bring to light” the mystery of the Gospel to others?

3. What are some reasons we are tempted to lose heart?

4. Which of God’s promises or God’s character can you remember to help give you boldness and confidence in the midst of trials?

Application: In what area of your life (situation, relationship, etc.) can your group be praying for you to not lose heart?



ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO AM I? Empowered

week 8

My God strengthens me, reveals to me, and accomplishes for me. I am so unworthy, yet so blessed.



SERMON NOTES

I AM EMPOWERED - **EPHESIANS 3:14-21**

Intro:

1. On your _____ : His power _____ your inner being (14-17)

2. With an Open _____ : His power brings _____ of His love (17-19)

3. In Full _____ : His limitless, gracious, and glorious power is _____ (20-21)

Reading plan

MONDAY	Psalm 18:28-50 - <i>He equips me with strength</i>
TUESDAY	2 Corinthians 12:1-10 - <i>His grace sustains</i>
WEDNESDAY	Philippians 4:4-20 - <i>Through Him who strengthens me</i>
THURSDAY	1 John 4:7-21 - <i>No fear in love</i>
FRIDAY	Acts 2:14-41 - <i>Pride and unbelief will hinder</i>



IMPACT GROUP QUESTIONS

Opening: From this passage, what truth about your identity in Christ impacted you the most?

1. How does pride affect our understanding of God's love?

2. How does humility affect our understanding of God's love?

3. What things cause us to doubt that God will make good on His promises?

4. Share a situation in your life where you saw God do more than you could ask or think.

Application: What other things do you try to fill your life with rather than the fullness of God?



ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO AM I? RESOURCES



RESOURCES

WHO AM I?

- ❑ I am the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13).
- ❑ I am the light of the world (Matt. 5:14).
- ❑ I am a child of God (John 1:12).
- ❑ I am part of the true vine, a channel of Christ's life (John 15:1,5).
- ❑ I am Christ's friend (John 15:15).
- ❑ I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit (John 15:16).
- ❑ I am a slave of righteousness (Rom. 6:18).
- ❑ I am enslaved to God (Rom. 6:22).
- ❑ I am a son of God; God is spiritually my Father (Rom. 8:14, 15; Gal. 3:26, 4:6).
- ❑ I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him (Rom. 8:17).
- ❑ I am a temple – a dwelling place – of God. His Spirit and His life dwells in me (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:30).
- ❑ I am united to the Lord and am one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17).
- ❑ I am a member of Christ's Body (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:30).
- ❑ I am a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).
- ❑ I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18, 19).
- ❑ I am a son of God and one in Christ (Gal. 3:26, 28).
- ❑ I am an heir of God because I am a son of God (Gal. 4:6, 7).
- ❑ I am a saint (Eph. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2).
- ❑ I am God's workmanship – His handiwork – born anew in Christ to do His work (Eph. 2:10).
- ❑ I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's family (Eph. 2:19).
- ❑ I am a prisoner of Christ (Eph. 3:1; 4:1).
- ❑ I am righteous and holy (Eph. 4:24).
- ❑ I am a citizen of heaven, seated in heaven right now (Phil. 3:20; Eph. 2:6).
- ❑ I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).
- ❑ I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life (Col. 3:4).
- ❑ I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved (Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4).
- ❑ I am a son of light and not of darkness (1 Thess. 5:5).
- ❑ I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1).
- ❑ I am a partaker of Christ; I share in His life (Heb. 3:14).
- ❑ I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5).
- ❑ I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a royal nation, a people for God's own possession (1 Pet. 2:9, 10).
- ❑ I am an alien and stranger to this world in which I temporarily live (1 Pet. 2:11).
- ❑ I am an enemy of the devil (1 Pet. 5:8).
- ❑ I am a child of God and I will resemble Christ when He returns (1 John 3:1, 2).
- ❑ I am born of God, and the evil one – the devil – cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).
- ❑ I am NOT the great "I AM" (Ex. 3:14; John 8:24, 28, 58), but by the grace of God, I am what I am (1 Cor. 15:10).



RESOURCES

MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Since I am in Christ, by the grace of God...

- ❑ I have been justified – completely forgiven and made righteous (Rom. 5:1).
- ❑ I died with Christ and to the power of sin's rule over my life (Rom 6:1-6).
- ❑ I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
- ❑ I have been placed into Christ by God's doing (1 Cor. 1:30).
- ❑ I have received the Spirit of God into my life that I might know the things freely given to me by God (1 Cor. 2:12).
- ❑ I have been given the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16).
- ❑ I have been bought with a price; I am not my own; I belong to God (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).
- ❑ I have been established, anointed and sealed by God in Christ, and I have been given the Holy Spirit as a pledge guaranteeing my inheritance to come (2 Cor. 1:21; Eph. 1:13, 14).
- ❑ Since I have died, I no longer live for myself, but for Christ (2 Cor. 5:14, 15).
- ❑ I have been made righteous (2 Cor. 5:21).
- ❑ I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I am now living is Christ's life (Gal. 2:20).
- ❑ I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3).
- ❑ I was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and am without blame before Him (Eph. 1:4).
- ❑ I was predestined – determined by God to be adopted as God's son (Eph. 1:5).
- ❑ I have been redeemed and forgiven, and I am a recipient of His lavish grace. (Rom. 5:1-2)

- ❑ I have been made alive together with Christ (Eph. 2:18).
- ❑ I may approach God with boldness, freedom, and confidence (Eph. 3:12).
- ❑ I have been rescued from the domain of Satan's rule and transferred to the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13).
- ❑ I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. The debt against me has been canceled (Col. 1:14).
- ❑ Christ Himself is in me (Col. 1:27).
- ❑ I am firmly rooted in Christ and am now being built in Him (Col. 2:7).
- ❑ I have been spiritually circumcised. My old unregenerate nature has been removed (Col. 2:11).
- ❑ I have been made complete in Christ (Col. 2:10).
- ❑ I have been buried, raised, and made alive with Christ (Col. 2:12-13).
- ❑ I died with Christ and I have been raised up with Christ. My life is now hidden with Christ in God. Christ is now my life (Col. 3:1-4).
- ❑ I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline (2 Tim. 1:7).
- ❑ I have been saved and set apart according to God's doing (2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5).
- ❑ Because I am sanctified and am one with the Sanctifier, He is not ashamed to call me brother (Heb. 2:11).
- ❑ I have the right to come boldly before the throne of God to find mercy and grace in time of need (Heb. 4:16).
- ❑ I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God by which I am a partaker of God's divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).

RESOURCES

LIES ABOUT GOD THE FATHER

I renounce the lie that God my Father is...	I receive the truth that God my Father is...
Distant and uninterested	Intimate and involved (Ps. 139:1-18)
Insensitive and uncaring	Kind and compassionate (Ps. 103)
Stern and demanding, like a taskmaster	Accepting and filled with joy and love for me (Rom. 15:7; Zeph. 3:17)
Passive and cold	Warm and affectionate (Isaiah 40:11; Hosea 11:3-4)
Absent or too busy for me	Always with me and delighted to be with me (Heb. 13:5; Jer. 31:20; Ezek. 34:11-16)
Never satisfied with what I do, impatient, or angry	Patient and slow to anger (Ex. 34:6; 2 Pet. 3:9)
Mean, cruel, or abusive	Loving, gentle, and protective of me (Jer. 31:3; Isaiah 42:3; Ps. 18:2)
Trying to take all the fun out of life, killjoy	Trustworthy, and wants to give me a full life; His will is good, acceptable, and perfect for me (Lam. 3:22-23; John 10:10; Rom. 12:1-2)
Controlling or manipulative	Full of grace and mercy, giving me freedom to fail (Heb. 4:15-16; Luke 15:17-24)
Condemning or unforgiving	Tenderhearted and forgiving, with His heart and arms always open to me (Ps. 130:1-4; Luke 15:17-24)
Nit-picking, exacting, or perfectionistic	Committed to my growth, and proud of me as His growing child (Rom. 8:28-29; Heb. 12:5-11; 2 Cor. 7:4)

RESOURCES

A.I.M.S. A NEW ACRONYM FOR LIVING MY LIFE

A. I will call to mind the stupendous truth that Jesus is **ALIVE**.
(Luke 24:5-6)

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

I. I will remember the breathtaking reality that Jesus is **IN** me.
(Rom. 8:10).

“Christ is in you.”

M. I will ponder the all-comforting fact that Jesus is **MIGHTY**.
(Matt. 28:18).

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

S. I will savor the sweetness that Jesus is **SATISFYING**. (John 6:35)

“Whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Christian Living *by Sinclair Ferguson*

We have been adopted into the family of God, and have become Christ's brother and a fellow-heir. In this book, Sinclair Ferguson helps us to see that grasping the truth of our adoption can add greatly to our full understanding of salvation.

God the Father *by Dr. Bill Thrasher*

In this article, Dr. Thrasher takes a biblical view of God as our Father and answers the questions, "What kind of Father is God?", "What does God do as Father?", and "How do we respond to God as Father?" As you read this resource you will come to discover there is only one perfect Father — God!

Saved Without a Doubt *by John MacArthur*

This book is an excellent resource for anyone who has struggled with the assurance of salvation. John MacArthur provides hope and biblical certainty for all who want to overcome their doubt and persevere in the promises of God through Christ.

Simply Jesus *by Joseph Stowell*

Have you ever struggled with the distractions and pace of the culture we live in? Have you ever desired more of Jesus, more of the time? In this book, Joe Stowell relates his own journey toward a radical shift in values that can lead you, too, into a joyous, close encounter with our Lord.

Links to each of these resources are available at:

harvestpeoria.org/whoami

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