



# START ING POINT

STUDENT EDITION

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**KNOWING  
WHO  
YOU  
ARE  
IN  
CHRIST**

**4**

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# HERE WE GO

In this session, you will discover more about your identity as a Christian and how you are to view yourself as a follower of Jesus. Because of the forgiveness that God has provided for you through His Son, you can live securely in the confidence that God eternally loves you. Therefore, you do not need to focus on your own faults and failures.

## MEMORIZE *Galatians 2:20*

*Copy the words, draw pictures, do whatever you need to memorize the Scripture.*

Faith definition:

**FAITH IS CHOOSING TO LIVE AS THOUGH GOD'S WORD IS TRUE REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES, REGARDLESS OF EMOTIONS AND REGARDLESS OF CULTURAL TRENDS.**

“And without *faith* it is impossible to please him (God)...” - Hebrews 11:6

“...whatever does not proceed from *faith* is sin.” - Romans 14:23

“for we walk by *faith*, not by sight.” - 2 Corinthians 5:7

## CONSIDER THIS

Jacob moved to a new town and, likewise, a new school. He loved his old school, and it had been really hard to move. When he arrived at his new school, it just so happened to be homecoming weekend, and he'd heard talk during his first couple of days that his new school would be taking on its long-established rival from the neighboring district. Jacob showed up at the football game and, having not really considered it, just happened to wear his old school's colors.

They insisted that he had to change clothes, but he explained that it was just a coincidence. Still, he felt way out of place and confused as to what he should do.

Jacob was having an issue with his new identity at this new school. He hadn't really taken it on yet and didn't really know what to do.

Do new Christians face a similar situation? Why or why not?

Your identity is extremely important in your life to help you establish and determine who you are. When you become a Christian, you take on the identity of Jesus Christ. You have all the privileges and responsibilities that come with such an identity. Many Christians, like Jacob, do not understand their identity, and they go through life not truly understanding who they really are. If you do not understand and embrace your identity in Jesus Christ, you will have trouble completing all that God has intended for you to experience and accomplish.



## TALK IT OUT

When we become Christians, we gain new identities, and God adopts us as His own children. Since we carry His name, we should strive to reflect His character. Of course, there are times when we do not act or feel like children of God. Fortunately, no matter what we do or how we act, once we gain our new identity in Jesus at salvation, we can never act badly enough to lose that identity.

In Galatians 2:20, Paul wrote:

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Paul mentions some important truths in the Scripture. Let us explore these truths and their significance to our daily Christian lives.

## YOU HAVE TAKEN ON A NEW IDENTITY

The New Testament Scriptures discuss our new identity in Jesus Christ. For the purposes of this study, we will look at these identity truths.

### 1. You have been declared innocent of every charge against you.

Look back at Galatians 2:20. To be “crucified with Christ,” means that when Christ died on the Cross, you died as well. Of course, you did not die in the flesh; you died to God’s wrath and the power of sin over your life.

According to 1 Peter 2:24, what has Christ done with your sins?

What is the result?

Read the following verses and record what they say Christ has given to us.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Philippians 3:8-9

If I lived as though 2 Corinthians 5:21 were true, what would that look like in my life?

If I lived as though Philippians 3:8-9 were true, what would that look like in my life?

The following image shows how God cannot look at us without seeing our sins.



The tirangle represents the triune image of God.



The eye represents what God sees.

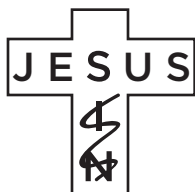


Sin represents your disobedience to God.



The person represents you.

Our sin seperates us from God; therefore, when He looks at us, He sees our sin.



Then, when Jesus died on the Cross for our sins, He became the permanent sacrifice. We took on His righteousness. When God looks at us now, He sees us through the lens of the Cross!





## BEFORE THE CROSS

JESUS

was righteous

was sinless

WE

are unrighteous

are sinful



## THE RESULT OF JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS

JESUS TOOK ON

our unrighteousness

our sinfulness

WE TOOK ON

His righteousness

His sinlessness

*"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son."  
Colossians 1:13*

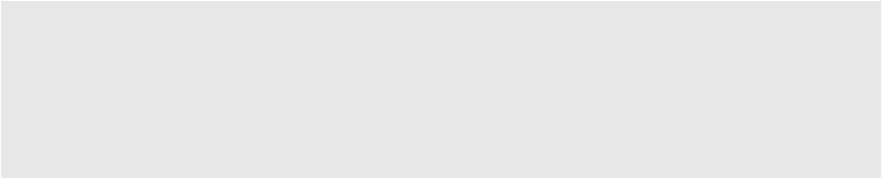
## CONSIDER THIS

Imagine that you're waiting in your school's main office because your principal has discovered that you cheated on an exam. When he finally calls you back to his office, you realize that one of your best friends is in there, too. Before you can get a word in, your best friend tells the principal that he would like to take the fall for you—he'll take on whatever punishment you deserve. The principal looks at you and says, "Just so we're clear: You cheated on an exam, but your friend here is going to take the punishment for you." He then looks at your best friend and asks, "Is that correct?" Your best friend nods and says, "Yeah, I'll pay the price."

The assistant principal then takes your best friend out of the office to tell him what his punishment will be. The principal looks at you one more time and says, “All right—you’re forgiven for what you did. In fact, when you leave my office, it’s as if you never cheated on that test.” Then, later that day, you find out that your best friend is actually the principal’s son.

Read 1 John 2:1-2. What is your best friend’s name?

Write 1 John 2:1-2 in the box.



What name is given to Jesus?

What is an advocate?

What does that mean for us?



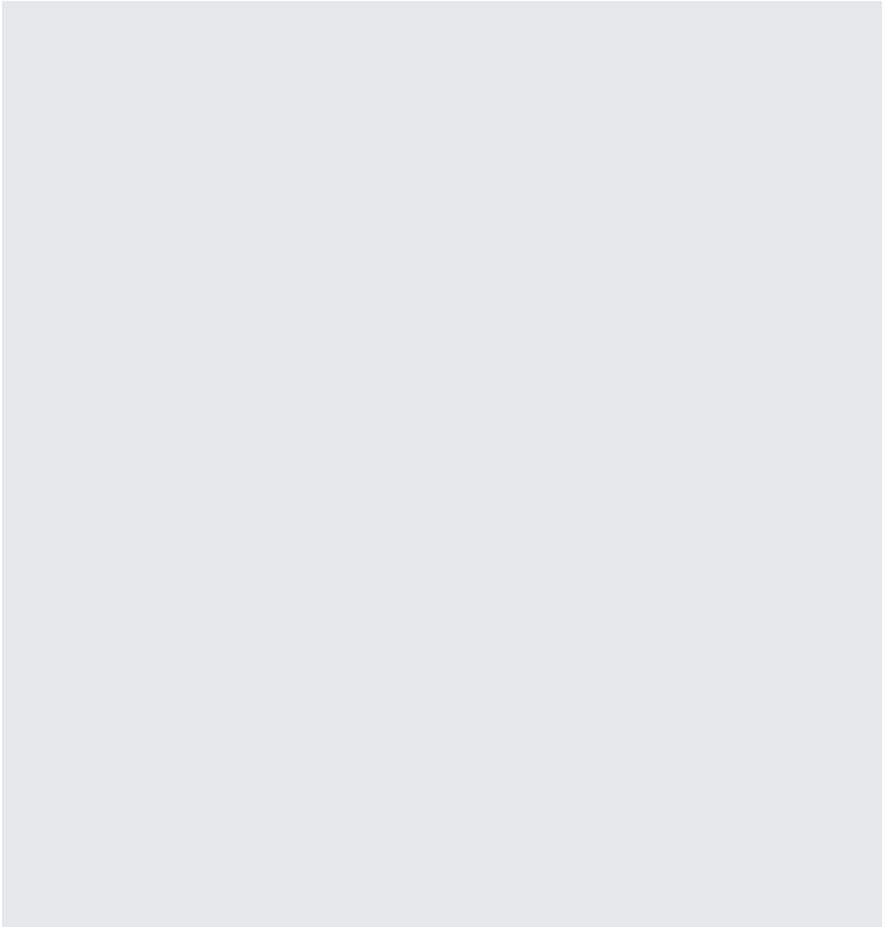
In your own words, clarify what it means that Jesus is holy.

Do you think of yourself as a holy person like Jesus? Why or why not?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Philippians 3:8–9. The Bible definitely says that each Christian has been declared righteous and enjoys a holy standing before God. Do you believe that for yourself? Why or why not?

What would your life be like if you were to see yourself as a person who is holy before God?

Write a thank-you note to God that includes all that Christ has done for you based upon this lesson.





## TALK IT OUT

### **2. Sin no longer has power over you.**

Read Romans 6:11-13 and explain how you are “dead to sin.”

Many people would like to believe that being dead to sin means you no longer have a desire to sin. Unfortunately, this is not true. Since you have died to sin, and Christ lives His life through you, you no longer have to give in to sin when you are tempted. You now have the power to choose not to sin.

### **3. You have hope.**

If you have invited Jesus into your life, you can know that you will spend eternity with Jesus. While you are free from the power and punishment of sin during this lifetime, you will also enjoy the absolute absence of sin in heaven.

Read the following Scriptures and record what they say about your eternal life.

Ephesians 2:12-13

1 Peter 1:3-5

What does it mean to have hope?

What happens when a person is hopeless?

# YOUR LIFE TODAY

## You Live Out Your New Identity by Faith in Christ

You have taken on the righteousness of Jesus as your new identity. Look at 2 Corinthians 5:21. If I lived as though 2 Corinthians 5:21 were true, what would that look like in my life?

*“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”*

*Romans 1:17*

God accepts us only on the basis of the death of Jesus Christ, His Son. It is a natural human response to believe that we should behave in certain ways in order to please Him and thus earn His acceptance and approval. If you believe that you must perform to earn God’s acceptance and approval, then you will also believe that you must perform well enough to maintain His acceptance and approval.



## TALK IT OUT

What are some things that people do in the pursuit of God’s acceptance and approval?

Why is it that many Christians believe that if they do not perform adequately then they will not sustain God’s approval?

Paul discussed the new Christian's position in Christ in Romans 6:1-18. Read this passage and keep in mind the following three principles that can help believers live in the reality of their new identities.

**1. Reflect on the truths of your identity (Romans 6:3, 6, 8-9).**

- a. Your past sinful behavior does not have to have power over you because you have died with Christ.
- b. You will never be alone again because you are joined with Christ in a new life forever.
- c. You do not have to live your Christian life on your own strength because you have the power of Jesus available to live through you.

Which of these truths is most encouraging to you?

Which of these truths is the most difficult to believe about yourself?

**2. By faith, choose to see yourself in the light of your new identity (Romans 6:11).**

With your new identity come the truths that we just discussed. God loves you and will never leave you. Satan, however, still wants to trip you up and convince you that none of that is true. He may bring back memories of your sin from your life before Christ or even lead you to think that you can't be any different, even with a new life in Christ. It is crucial to understand and believe that these thoughts that Satan would lead you to believe are lies and have no basis in God's Word. In order to fight these thoughts, we must train our thoughts, emotions and actions to exist in the light of our new identity in Christ. We do this by studying God's Word and learning more and more about who He is so that we can reflect that same image. We call this "renewing your mind" because we are training our human mind to take on the mind of Christ.

Why is it sometimes easier to focus on the old you rather than the new you?

3. Yield to God’s leadership (Romans 6:12-13).

A way to live out this principle is to offer up a daily prayer to the Lord before you begin your day. While it does not have to be exact, such a prayer could resemble the following:

*Lord, thank You for the new identity You have given me because of Your Son. Thank You that when You look at me, You do not see my sin, but you do see Jesus. Help me to live as though that is true. I want to offer my life to You today. I give you my thoughts, my feelings, my attitudes and my actions. Please help me as I strive to yield to Your leadership today. Help me be an example of Your love to others. Amen.*

Set a goal to pray this prayer every day for at least the next week, if not the entire month.

APPLYING THE FAITH DEFINITION TO YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Fill in the following chart based on what you have learned from Galatians 2:20-21. Note the perception of your experience in the left box, and the truth of God’s Word in the right box:

Your Experience	God’s Word

# BEFORE YOU FINISH

Consider all the material through which you have just worked, and read the following statement. When you completely agree with the statement, sign on the line.

**By faith I choose to believe that, due to Jesus' death on the Cross, God looks at me through the lens of the Cross. When He sees me, He sees Jesus.**

Signed\_\_\_\_\_



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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