

Who am I? Our true identity

1. **"Hello, Peter!" People call us by our names. They may know who our parents are, where we went to school, where we live, and where we came from/which country we came from.**
2. **Once when we received the Lord Jesus as Saviour, big changes happened in us and we have a new identity.**

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)
- So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19 ESV)

3. **When we committed sins in the past, we had many bad habits, bad thoughts and behaviours. This is the "old self", the slave of sin.**
4. **The "old self" was not happy, and was not free. Because the "old self" went against the conscience and committed sins, the "old self" was separated from God.**

- To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires. (Ephesian 4:22 ESV)
- Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices. (Colossians 3:5-9 ESV)
- Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ! (Ephesian 4:17-20 ESV)
- And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and

the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
(Ephesian 2:1-3 ESV)

5. However, when we receive the salvation from the Lord, the Lord lives in our hearts immediately and we are united with Him. Our spirit experiences being born again.

- We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (Romans 6:6-8 ESV)
- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesian 2:4-6 ESV)

6. The "old self" has been dead and now the one who lives is a new creation.

- 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. (Galatians 2:20 ESV)

7. We still have the same physical body, the same outlook/appearance, the same skills and techniques. But our spirit is totally new.

- Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:21-24, ESV)
- From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:16-17 ESV)

8. When this "new creation" stands before God, he is pure and without any sins. He is 100% perfect and the most suitable to live in heaven. When the angels see this new creation, they will welcome him very much. Now we have not yet lived in heaven because there is God's work for us to finish on earth.

9. We are the children of God and we call God " Abba, Father." The Lord Jesus is our elder Brother, our best Friend, and true Beloved.

- And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Colossians 3:10 ESV)
- Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience (Colossians 3:12 ESV)
- Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will (Ephesians 1:4-5)
- To redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:5-7 ESV)
- For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Romans 8:29-30 ESV)

10. This "new creation" loves God the most and delight in God's commandments. Our heart is the purest. We are like God and we are God's perfect match.

- By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. (2 Peter 1:4 ESV)
- And to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:23-24 ESV)

11. Our true self is really beautiful. However, our memory and bad habits from the past will hinder us from living out our true self. Besides, the Satan will tempt us and use our past experiences to affect us. We may be deceived and think that we are not good enough. We may even think we cannot overcome sins/we are a loser. Indeed, sometimes we may really fall.

12. Our failures will not affect the identify of the "new creation. It will not affect our relationship with God either. When we fail, the "new creation" is sick and very weak.

13. What we need to do is to use our faith, to rely on the Lord to resist the temptations from Satan. We need to return to God. Then we can enjoy the peace and all the blessings.

- For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Romans 7:18-25 ESV)
- And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:24-25 ESV)
- So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (Romans 8:12-14 ESV)
- Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Romans 7:25 ESV)
- But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57 ESV)
- But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. (2 Corinthians 2:14 ESV)

14. Our identity will not change. We need to keep our spirit strong. Then we can fully enjoy the blessings and joy from God.

- For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:15-17 ESV)
- But Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (Hebrews 3:6 ESV)

- For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (Hebrews 3:14)
- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (John 10:27-29 ESV)