

## In Christ

Witness protection program - new identity.

Reading: 2Co 5:14-21 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 16 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. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Who are you descended from? Ever traced ancestors? Gibson = Viking name!

Adam!

Rom 5 - share his guilt & nature. You aren't a sinner because you sin; you sin because you're a sinner.

BUT - when you become a Christian, God places you IN CHRIST. Adam --> Christ! Second Adam. New species of being! Corinthians - mere men

Establish new identity. As Christians, we need to start living out of our new identity in Christ. We often live like our old self. Forgiven but still living the way we used to.

Habits

Coping mechanisms

What does 2Cor 5:17 teach us?

How? So, how exactly do we consistently walk in the reality of who we are in Christ Jesus?

### **Discovery**

First of all, we need to discover what Jesus has done for us and who we are

N.T letters - read & mark. ü Find out who you are!

### **Appropriation**

This is where we don't just discover what Jesus has done but we PERSONALISE it, we make it

applicable to ourselves. E.G of 2Cor 5:17

Split into groups Give out passages. Look for In Christ. What does it tell you?

### **Personalise it.**

Application The next step is then taking hold of what Jesus has already done for you, who you are in Christ & applying it to your life now.

How does Eph 6 describe God's word (sword) - we need to take that sword and use it to overcome incorrect worldviews, temptations, fear & doubt.

Use what you have discovered and consider how you can practically APPLY what you have appropriated.

Jephthah - Judg 11:24 whatever the Lord our God has given us, we will possess. (NIV1984)

That needs to become the motto of each one of us - whatever the LORD our God has given us - we will possess, live in the good of, enjoy and keep hold of. Christian in Doubting Castle - Key in breast pocket.

### **Apply!**

Apply it to:

Temptation - Col 1:13; Rom 6

Lack of assurance - Gal 3:26; Eph 1:4-5 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.... (NIV1984) 1

Fear - Rom 8:15 - not a slave to fear but received the spirit of adoption. 1John 4:4

A process When a person becomes a Christian they are instantly justified - explain. But - the process of working that out into our daily lives is a lifelong process.

Rom 12:2 Two commands:

Not be conformed - don't let world squeeze you into its mould.

Be transformed. Metamorphosis! Who would have thought a caterpillar could be transformed into a beautiful butterfly? Who could ever think that habits, attitudes, deep rooted sins and thought patterns could be changed in your life! They can - but it takes effort - daily persistent planned effort.

Discover - Appropriate - Apply