

Lesson 9: Our New Identity

[eCourse for Healing](#). Healing Streams Ministry, Savannah, GA. All scriptures are from the ESV unless otherwise noted.

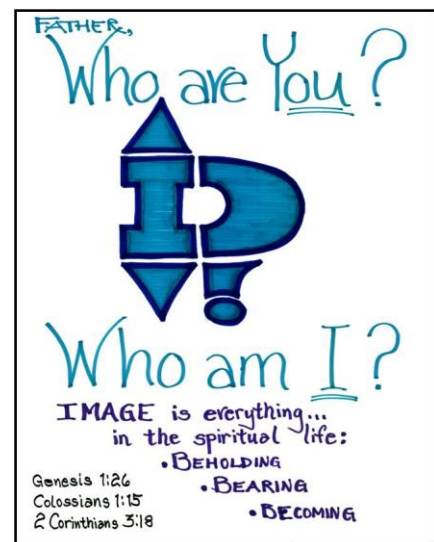
<http://blog.forerunners4him.org/resurrectionfacts>

The all-important issue of identity determines so much about how we will live and what we will do with our time here on earth. **No one who has a poor self-image can truly enjoy living**, yet the gospel has not come to tell you how great you are. Jesus says: “Without me you can do nothing (John 15:5),” and Paul writes, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells (Romans 7:18).” Hardly a formula for pride based self-esteem!

So what is the answer? Discovering who we really are—now that Jesus has come to live inside of us. And our sense of self-worth? It is based upon the solid rock of His love for us—period. **You are His Beloved**—just try to wrap your heart around the enormity of that blazing truth. He lived and died and lives again to bring you fully to life! Everything else you could hope to get out of life—compared to this—is chump change (Philippians 3:7-8).

The fall into sin created an identity crisis. Our fundamental problem is that we do not know who our God is and we do not know who we really are. We are suffering from a kind of massive loss of identity made even worse by our failure to realize it and face up to it. We tend to think mainly of the Fall as a fall into sin and into the sin nature, which it certainly was. We say rightly that fallen man, once created in the image of God, no longer reflects that image.

Beyond this, one essential effect of the Fall was that Adam in dying spiritually could no longer behold his God. Both the image of God and the image of man fell from his sight. **Adam could neither see who God is nor could he see who he himself truly was either**—since who we are is entirely defined in relation to God who created us. Jesus has come to restore both our lost vision of God and our true identity.



Now that faith in Christ has come to us, we are new creations. This is the miracle of new birth (John 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:23) that raises us into eternal life (John 3:16; John 17:3; 1 John 5:11-13).

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 WEB

What does it mean that we are new creations? We still see a lot of the old nature and the former ways of living, thinking and feeling, but new things have been added that radically change *all things*. But before we look at the things that have *become new*, let's review what has not changed or passed away. For Paul cannot be trying to tell us that we no longer have a sin nature to contend with. He above all the apostles lays out the ongoing struggle between the new creation (spirit) and the old nature (flesh) in texts too numerous to fully mention (Romans 7:17-20; Romans 8:1-8; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Galatians 5:13-17; Galatians 5:24-26). **What does pass away?**



Email: info@forerunners4Him.org
Web: www.forerunners4Him.org

Email: info@healingstreamsusa.org
Web: www.healingstreamsusa.org



1) What no longer exists is the person who did not know that Jesus is both Savior and Lord. That person has indeed *passed away* now that the revelation of Jesus Christ has come.

2) Before conversion, we were one with our sins. With our repentance and faith in Christ, the Father separated us from our sins—by forgiving them and justifying us.

3) We are no longer “on the outside.” We were not a people, but now we are a part of God’s family. We were once strangers to the covenant, but now have been brought near (Ephesians 2:19).

This way of seeing the new birth (by what passed away) is like driving by looking in the rear view mirror. The really fine, forward looking view is how we appear now as new creations!

- We have been **spiritually reborn** through the revelation of Jesus Christ (see Lesson 8).
- We can no longer measure anything in life without reference to Christ (2 Co 5:16).
- We have been given a **new heart** and a **new spirit**—a new nature! (Eze 36:26).
- We live under a **new covenant** of immense mercy (Jer 31:31-34; 2Co 5:18-19).
- We are given the **Holy Spirit**, the **righteousness of Christ**, the **name of Jesus**.
- We are not our past, not our sin, not our negative emotions—we are new creations!

We are also a mystery even to ourselves. God is bestowing a new identity upon us only He knows. Who we now are is only revealed whenever we trust and obey Jesus—we are “hidden” in Him. He is the key! ***As we die to self, we live through Christ*** (Romans 6:5-11).

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24

The foundation: our acceptance by God is absolute, complete and unchanging.

It was God...in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them]. 2 Corinthians 5:19 AMP

This incredible Reconciliation covers all that we are, have been and will be whether in Adam or in Christ. Faith is what God gives us so that we can receive this grace and be translated from the kingdom of darkness (in Adam) to the kingdom of His Son (in Christ), but faith did not in any way change God’s heart towards us (which is love) or His reconciliation to our sins (which Jesus accomplished fully at the cross).

In conversion the **former self** (that had no life in Christ) passed away and the **true self** (that lives through trusting Christ) has been reborn/regenerated. The new creation is a redeeming of the old, not an elimination of all that was former. We have a new start and a new center from which to live at any moment.



Email: info@forerunners4Him.org
Web: www.forerunners4Him.org

Email: info@healingstreamsusa.org
Web: www.healingstreamsusa.org



We are new, but the old is in us. The new creation “**comes to life**” in us whenever we trust in the One who is our new Life. As we “walk in the light” trusting God through Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7), our old nature is laid to rest like a shadow lying down behind us (Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20). But the old creation can also “come to life” in us whenever we cease relying upon our God!

I have been crucified with Christ... it is no longer I who live, but Christ... lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
Galatians 2:20 AMP

The old nature draws power from false ideas of self shaped by the world. Some of us carry elements in our personality that we think of as ourselves. They are in us—but not us!

Nervous energy (anxious feelings)	Perfectionism (people pleasing/fear of man)
Addictive personality (compulsions)	Driven to achieve/succeed (self salvation)
Flashes of anger (hot temper)	Excessive sensitivity (too easily hurt)
Timidity or shyness (fear of rejection)	Deep wellsprings of grief over losses
Feelings of persistent loneliness	Depression, heaviness of heart
Nuclear reactivity (panic mode)	Impatience (prickly, irritable edges)
Stubbornness (pride and rebellion)	Impulse to control or be in control

These ideas of self are not who we really are! Any or all of these may describe our personality as we have known it, but they are not who we really are—not our God given personhood in Christ. They reveal where the fallen nature still has power to block the life of the new creation from coming forth. Consider these two things:

- **When we were born** these traits weren't in us: we trusted and loved freely—no baggage!
- **When we die** and go to heaven, these traits will have to be removed from us.

Restoration of our true life begins by breaking agreement with false beliefs about ourselves and choosing to embrace instead what God is speaking over us about our new identity. Two images fell when Adam fell—that of God and of us. Get your image set right by seeing His.

Whatever does not look like Jesus in you, isn't the real you. Repent, renounce, receive cleansing. Proper self-love is it is not pride or self-absorption—it is accepting God's view of you.

The truth is that you have a really, really great future planned for you by your loving Father which can begin now. Live according to who you are going to be rather than who you have been.

*I am not what I was. I am not what I will be. I am being changed from glory to glory.
And God is loving me full throttle all along the way!* Dr. Henry W. Wright, [Be In Health](#)

For more on learning to love and accept yourself as the New Creation that you are see [Love Thyself!](#) at healingstreamsusa.org.



Email: info@forerunners4Him.org
Web: www.forerunners4Him.org

Email: info@healingstreamsusa.org
Web: www.healingstreamsusa.org

