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VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING CONFERENCE

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT YOU?

Lesson Transcript by Bill Houck

I'm very thankful to be here with you in this time that the Lord has provided for us to look at the "What's New About You?" If you haven't already, please turn to your lesson "What's New About You?" I will be sharing with you on our identity, who we are. Some of the most critical questions that any of us can ask are: "Who am I? Why am I here? What is the meaning and purpose of life?" Those are some of the most fundamental and most important questions we can ask. I intend to answer those in the next few minutes.

In thinking about identity, I was looking at a book the other day called *Illustrations Unlimited*. Within that book I found a neat story about a man who went out into the woods and he was looking for a bird of interest. He happened to find a young eagle. He took that eagle home to his farm and put him in the chicken yard with his chickens. The eagle learned to eat chicken food. Five years later, a naturalist happened to stop by the farm and saw this eagle eating with the chickens and said to the owner, "That's an eagle you have living there." The owner said, "Oh, no, I've trained him to become a chicken." Even though this eagle had a 15-foot wingspan, the farmer still was confident that he had trained that eagle to be a chicken. Well, the naturalist said: "No, no, he's an eagle. Will you allow me to free him?" And the farmer said, "You're free to try, but he's a chicken." So the naturalist picked the eagle up. He looked the eagle in the eye and he said: "Eagle, thou art an eagle. Soar into the heavens." The eagle looked away from the guy and he looked down at the chickens and he hopped down into the chicken yard. And the farmer said: "See, I told you. He's a chicken." The

naturalist said: "No, no, he's an eagle. I'll come back tomorrow and we'll try it again." So the naturalist came back the next day and he took the eagle up onto the roof of the farmer's house. He held the eagle up. He looked the eagle in the eye and said: "Eagle, thou art an eagle. Soar up into the heavens." And he turned him around and the eagle looked down at the chickens and went right down to the chicken yard and started eating. The farmer said: "See, I told you. He's a chicken. I trained him to be a chicken." The naturalist said: "No. Let me try one more time tomorrow morning." The farmer said, "Okay." The naturalist came early in the morning and took the eagle out into the wilderness. He took the eagle up onto a high rocky knoll, looked him in the eyes, and said: "Eagle, thou art an eagle. Soar like an eagle." The naturalist turned the eagle around and he looked around a little bit. The eagle was trembling by this time, scared. Then the naturalist turned the eagle's head and pointed his head directly into the sun. The eagle seemed to puff up and he soared away, never to return again. He always was an eagle, but he had lived with chickens so long he began to think he was a chicken.

Now, we have been created in the image of God; but men have made us think we're chickens, so we believe we are even though we are eagles. What God would have us do is to stretch forth our wings and fly in our true identity. If I was going to summarize this whole lesson for you in a nutshell, it is that when someone becomes a Christian a massive change takes place in the person's life. That person becomes completely new when he or she becomes a Christian. There are several promises

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that I'd like to make you as we move into this lesson. I'll show you man's past identity in Adam. I will also show you your identity in Christ. The next thing I'd like to do is to show you how God made you.

So, if you'll turn with me to your introductory page, "What's New About You?", you'll see a Scripture verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature"

"God created you a God-conscious being. He gave you the ability to think in terms of your own personal identity as related to Him. You have a built-in need to view life in terms of meaning and purpose. Meaning and purpose in life flow from identity. Personal significance is a driving objective. The constant search for meaning has always motivated man. This need is met only when a person experiences Jesus Christ as his or her very life and identity." So God created you with something inside of you that wanted to have meaning, purpose, value, and identity that can only be established in relationship to Jesus Christ.

Now there are many things in life that some of us find as identities. I'll just share with you a few of them from my past to illustrate. Years ago, I used to own a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and one of my identities was that I was a Harley rider. Have any of you who ever noticed, there are motorcycle riders and then there are Harley riders? Those who have a Harley-Davidson are set apart from all the rest. I don't exactly understand why that is—a great marketing tool on Harley-Davidson's part. Anyway, that was one of my identities. Another vehicle that I had that I would choose for an identity was an old beat-up Chevrolet pickup truck called "Bessie." When I drove Bessie, I was a totally different individual than when I rode on the Harley-Davidson. If I chose to enter the garage and drive the 1965 Corvette coupe that was stashed in there with a high performance small block engine in it, I was a totally different individual altogether. I also had a family buggy

and if I was going to be the family man, I would take the big Ford LTD and put the family in it. I was a different person when I drove that car than when I drove the Corvette, than when I drove Bessie, than when I rode the Harley-Davidson. Then if I really was in a cruel mood I had a Vega with a Chevrolet 350 high performance engine. If I just wanted to get out and rip and tear something up and do wheel stands, I'd pull the Vega out of the garage. It was the one that took all the abuse in those days. But whichever vehicle I drove was my identity.

Now there are other things that people find identity in. How many of you have met someone and when you said, "Hi. Who are you?" They say, "I am pastor so and so of such and such church and we have so many in our congregation." That's an identity statement. How many of you have met anyone who when you meet say: "I am an electrician. I'm a carpenter. Hi, I'm a Bible counselor. Hi, I'm a chef. Hi, I'm a mother, I'm a father, I'm a sister, I'm a brother, I'm a nothing." People have all sorts of different things that they find identity and meaning and purpose in. All of those are not their true identity. The only real identity that we can have, the truest one, is our spiritual identity which is either related to Adam, Adam of Eden, or Jesus Christ, God of the universe. Those are the only two identities you have. Primarily you are a spiritual creature and I'll share more of that with you.

If you'll look with me at the next paragraph on the introductory page, I'd like to explain to you why I am here and why you are here. It's very simple. "God's purpose is that through an intimate, obedient, dependent, love relationship with Him, you will receive and demonstrate the very life of God. His life, love, purity, patience, faithfulness, and power are meant to be yours and then to be manifested through you." That's why I am here, to have an intimate, loving relationship with God. It is very personal and we'll talk more about that.

Now then, look with me at the next paragraph. “Adam and Eve lost the security of life through unbelief and disobedience. Following their rebellion, they tried to ‘make life work’ with only human resources. Life’s meaning and purpose thus had to be sought *within* the person, now that man had become god of his own life. Identity, significance, and purpose must now be achieved by personal appearance, accomplishments, social status, possessions, or the earned acceptance of others.” This is the paragraph that begins to share with us a deception of the world. In the world, what you do is often who you are. That is not the truth. What you do is not who you are. Secondly, what you do is not the most important thing about you. Thirdly, who you are is more important than what you do. Who you are, who you are related to is more important than what you do.

The last part of this page on your explanation has a definition for sin in bold. Some people define sin as adultery, stealing, or murder. This is truly what **sin** is: Sin is the deception that man can find meaning and purpose in life apart from a personal love relationship of obedience to the Creator of life.” Sin is a deception that you can find meaning or purpose or value in anything apart from God. See, every time that I sin, I’m deceived into thinking that is going to fulfill, that is going to meet, that is going to give me what I need. It’s a deception.

The last part says on that page, “If you are a Christian living without a true picture of ‘who you are in Christ’ you may be functioning in a manner that is lacking (if not contrary to) true freedom. This is an identity crisis! In this lesson dare to take God’s Word at face value, neither blindly affirming its truth without honest examination, nor rationalizing your failures and calling them acceptable. The greatness and the victory of Christ’s atonement is yours in reality.”

MAN—A TRIUNITY (Diagram 170-A)

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Look with me at Diagram 170-A, “Man—A Tri-unity.” In these first two diagrams, what I want to do is help you understand how God has created you. Let’s look up 1 Thessalonians 5:23 from the bottom of this diagram. I’ll read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and he also will bring it to pass.” So as God looks at you, He says you are a spirit, soul, and body. Now think with me for a minute. Is that the way the world defines you? Does the world say you’re a spirit, a soul, and a body or do they flip it around and say your body is the most important part? If we look at it that way, then all of our focus goes on our body—so we have to exercise it, we have to puff it up, we have to build it up, we have to take care of it, we have to primp it, we have to . . . —if our body is not healthy our identity all changes. Our soul, as it is explained on your diagram is mind, will, and emotions. If we are primarily soul-oriented in our thinking, then intellect is most important. Or emotions, if we happen to be bent that way, then sensitivity becomes our identity. But, see, God designed us differently than what the world says. We are spirit creatures, that’s who we are. We have souls and we live in bodies. That’s truly who we are. The spiritual aspect of you is the most important part, so let’s look at that one first.

The spirit as you see on your diagram is the part of us that is God-conscious—spiritually aware, spiritually sensitive, has spiritual understanding, and spiritual motivation. That’s the spiritual part of us that relates to God. By far, that is the most important. This individual on this diagram is not a believer, is not a Christian, and has not been born again.

You’ll notice that this person does have a soul, though. That is our self-conscious part. Within the soul are our mind, our will, and our emo-

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tions. That's the psychological part of us that relates to others. Our mind is thinking, our will is choosing, and our emotions are our feelings. Now if you're explaining this to a child, you'd use a thinker, a chooser, and a feeler because children have these components within their soul. I want to prioritize these for you. By far what you choose to be the truth is the most important thing. What you think is second and how you feel is third if you could prioritize them. So you want to be choosing the truth, you want to be thinking on the truth, and when you do that, your emotions will follow. Now some people like me tend to be emotionally oriented and I feel things long before I can figure out what I am thinking about them. Even in that circumstance, I need to be choosing what is the truth because if I continue to choose the truth, my thoughts and emotions will come in line.

The third part of me is the body which is world-conscious and you see there sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. This is the physiological part that relates to my environment.

Hebrews 4:12 also talks about us having a spirit, soul, and body. That's just another reference to this triunity of man.

***SPIRIT/SOUL/BODY* (Diagram 170-B)**

If you'll look with me at Diagram 170-B, you'll see a similar creature, but there are some significant changes. Within the spirit of this individual, the person is born again and is complete. This is a believer, this is a Christian who has been saved by God's grace. God gives the person assurance, He gives the person security, He gives the person acceptance, and He is totally committed to the person—100 percent. This person is in the kingdom of God. He is in Christ Jesus.

Now, what this diagram also explains to you is the deception that many Christians live in. They do not, in their souls, believe to be true

what God has done for them in their spirits. Consequently, within their souls, they think they are inferior, they believe they are insecure, they think they are inadequate, they feel guilty, they worry about things, they doubt things, and they are afraid of things. What happens when you have a discrepancy between what's true about you in your spirit and what you believe in your soul, is that you have a frustration gap. You see that comes out of there. So when you are living with family, or working in the world, frustrations come out and you don't know why. Well, it's because of what you believe, what you think, or what you choose in your soul. You'll, also, see that the will is making wrong choices. The emotions—you may be depressed or anxious. Your mind may wander off into fantasy, fear, or obsessive thoughts. Any of those things could happen if you were walking in this deception, not believing that what God says is true about you and your spirit.

What is seen in many people's lives is that in the body, things begin to happen. Headaches appear, ulcers appear, hives, rashes, respiratory ailments, sleep, all kinds of heart problems, eating disorders, etc. Many things show up in the physical body because of the soul not accurately functioning as God has designed it. Now, in the world, there are problems which are called psychosomatic illnesses. These illnesses are based on the *psyche*, the soul, and the *soma*, the body, and these people are not agreeing in their souls with the things that are true about them in their spirits. Consequently, they have physical illnesses that are very real but they are caused by soulistic problems. Many Christians function within that realm. I have a doctor friend who told me that 60 to 80 percent of the people that he treats have psychosomatic illness problems. The problems that they have can be alleviated when they believe the truth of who they are spiritually with their souls. That's an amazing statistic.

“IN” ADAM (Diagram 170-C)

Look with me at your next diagram, 170-C, as we begin to look at the solution. Here you have a diagram that is entitled “‘In’ Adam.” You see that being born in Adam, we are born in sin and separated from God. Romans 5:12 on your diagram says, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—” Because you and I were born in Adam (this is the Adam of Eden) we were born in sin. Let me try to illustrate that for you. I have a grandfather who lived during the time of World War I. At that time he was not married to my grandmother. Where was my father during World War I? I have a father who served in World War II. At that time he was not married to my mother. Where was I during World War II? I have a son Kristopher. Kristopher was not yet conceived during the Viet Nam conflict. Where was Kristopher during that war? The answers to all those questions are they were in the loins of their fathers. You and I were in Adam in Eden. All of us came out of Adam, then we came out of Noah, and subsequently we’ve come out of our ancestors all the way down to the present. So, we could trace our heritage back all the way up this line and all those little boxes to Adam of Eden as our great, great, great . . . grandfather. That was our Adam. You and I were born in him, we were born in sin, and we were born separated from God. This little stick figure in the middle represents us when we were born. Our identity at that time—as man, being mankind, not male, not female, but the whole creation man—was sinner. This is the natural man that we will be talking about as we go through the conference. This natural man, if he does not change course, is on his way to death, that fiery little thing there at the bottom of your diagram. Two deaths. He will die physically and he will die spiritually, eternally in Hell unless he changes his path. See those Scripture verses at the bottom. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of

God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Also, Romans 3:23 says, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” All of us have sinned. All of us have fallen short of the glory of God because of our heritage. **This was our identity when we were born.**

IT’S YOUR CHOICE (Diagram 170-C1)

Look with me at your next diagram, 170-C1. We’re going to build on this concept. In this diagram entitled “It’s Your Choice” you still see the life in Adam. But something new has been added to the “It’s Your Choice” diagram and that is the very life of Christ which is represented by a horizontal line across the page. Now, you have a choice to stay in Adam or to opt for a better deal and enter into the life of Christ. It’s your choice. You can choose. This is a salvation presentation. It’s your responsibility to make the response to God by faith. You see the little stick figure there. He has to respond to what God has done.

Now, let’s talk a little bit about God. This eternal life of Christ that is represented by the horizontal line is Christ’s very life. Answer this question for me. When did Christ’s eternal life start? It always was. See, the eternal life of Christ is. John 1:1-4, says: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of man.” Jesus always was in the past, right? He always was. How about in the future? When does the eternal life of Christ end? It never does. It never starts, it never ends, it always is. Jesus always has been. So, when Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, is that when His life began? No, not at all. I believe Jesus walked in the garden with Adam and Eve. When God came and walked with them that was Jesus walking. When I get there and get to talk to Him, I want to ask Him if He wore clothes. I’ve always wondered that. Have

you ever wondered that? But He was there in the beginning. He made them. He has made everything. His life is eternal.

Now then, because of the little cross that is represented there on the life of Christ, the eternal life of Christ, He, through His sacrificial death, has provided for you and me a way to enter into His very life. But our part is that we must choose to believe. You must choose to receive. You must choose to accept that free gift of God's grace. It takes a volitional choice on your part to get into the life of Christ.

LIFE IN CHRIST (Diagram 170-C2)

Now your next diagram, 170-C2, will develop this a little bit more. This is a **key diagram**, "Life in Christ." Because in this diagram we will begin to see where you are. You are either in Adam or in Christ. If you have exercised faith in what God did on the cross, if like it says in Galatians 2:20, I, Bill, have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I, Bill, who lives but it is Christ who lives in me, I have been identified with Christ's death. Romans 6:5-6 says, "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin." Now His life, and my life, have become united. His life is my life.

God's part is He transfers us from Adam and plants us into Christ. First Corinthians 1:30 says, "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption." By God's doing, He has taken us out of Adam and placed us into Christ. Listen to what it says in Colossians 1:13-14, "For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." God "relocated" us, changed our life through

the act of faith. In John 5:24 Jesus is speaking, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." We have been transferred, transformed, changed completely by entering into this life of Christ. Christ's very life now becomes our very life as we exercise faith.

So, whose life do you now possess if you are in Christ? Christ's very life has become our life. What kind of life do you have? You have an eternal life, the same identical life as Christ. When did your eternal life begin? It always was, but some people think that when they entered into Christ that's when their life began. But, see, the diagram is very clear. Ephesians 1:4 says, "Just as He [God] chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him." He has given us a new identity in the past, in the present, in the future, in all ways we have a new identity. Look with me at 2 Corinthians 5:17 on the other end of your diagram, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." What has happened is God has made us new creatures. We are dramatically, totally different because of what God has done. We were dead in sin and trespasses. We are now alive in Christ. We were in darkness, now we're in light. My identity used to be a sinner and I was a very good one when I was one. Now I'm not a sinner anymore. Now I'm a saint, I'm different. I can still sin, but I don't have to. Back here I didn't have any choice, now I have a choice. I don't have to sin anymore. God has set me free because of being a new creature, having a new identity. I'm not the same Bill I used to be. If you've entered into Christ, you're not the same person that you used to be, you are different, you're not the same. That's what I want to help you see in this message. That you and Christ are one, in unity, you and Christ have the very same life.

Back in Illinois I live close to the Mississippi River and oftentimes when people talk about entering into Christ and their life beginning at that time I use the Mississippi River as an illustration. I say, "If you run over and jump into the Mississippi River then you've entered into it, right? They say, "Right." Does the Mississippi River begin when you enter into it? No, it doesn't begin when you enter into it. It actually begins way up in Minnesota. I've been up there. I rode my motorcycle up there and I jumped across the Mississippi River. One giant leap for mankind. It begins way up there. It doesn't begin when you enter into it. You really don't change the Mississippi River by entering into it, but you become a part of it.

Let me try to illustrate what Christ's life in you is like. This happens to be a very nice glass. Let's say that this is a pottery cup. In the Bible, God says that we are earthen vessels and He tells us to go to the potter if we want to understand. If I took this cup and I drained the water down to about there and set this in the river it would just kind of float along just like a boat does. If I fill this cup all the way up to the top with water and set it in the Mississippi River, it will completely sink. See, many Christians just kind of float along, don't they, half in the world and half in Christ, not really submerged. But if I took that all the way full and dropped it into the Mississippi River, put on my scuba gear, and went to the bottom, could I find that mug if I spent enough time down there? Yes, I certainly could, couldn't I? It's a unique vessel, full of Christ and surrounded by Christ. That's kind of like you and I are in Christ. See, when we're full of the Spirit, when we're surrounded by God's Spirit, walking after His Spirit, that makes us available to a totally different experience.

Maybe scuba diving would be a good illustration. I don't know how many of you like to do that. I like to do that. I actually sold my scuba gear in Illinois because I got spoiled one time. God sent me to the Bahamas and I went down

there and I never want to scuba dive in Illinois again because the water is too murky. I'm asking God to send me further south in the Bahamas where the water is even better to scuba dive. When you get submerged under the water it's a totally different life. That's like the life of Christ.

Let me try to illustrate for you the transformation, the change, that took place in us. Back when I was in the army, I was in an army unit and I drove a jeep for the company commander. I took a field jacket and secured it underneath the seat of the company commander in case it got cold. Well, also under that seat was the battery. One night we were on a field problem and it got cold and I pulled that field jacket out, put it on, got my gloves out of the pocket, and as I was doing that I noticed that there was something wrong with my field jacket. It had holes eaten in it by the battery acid and I said, "oh, sugar jets" or something like that because I was not a believer at that time. I wore the jacket until the end of the field problem and took it to the supply sergeant at the conclusion of that mission in the wilderness. I took it to Sergeant Smith and held it up and he said, "Sergeant Houck, what did you do to that jacket?" I said, "I stuck it under the CO's seat and it got battery acid on it." He said, "It's not worth anything, throw it in the bin over there." So I wadded it up and did my best Michael Jordan three-pointer and swished it. He went to the back room and brought out a brand new field jacket wrapped in plastic. He said, "Sign here Sergeant Houck." I signed for it and he gave me a brand new field jacket. I went home and had Juli sew the patches on it. We starched it. I could hardly wait until Monday morning formation so I could go profile my new threads. I had a brand new field jacket.

Well, see, that's kind of like my life in Christ. What I had before was worn-out, rotten, good for nothing, holes in it. It was just a filthy rag needing to be thrown away. In the process of being transformed into Christ, He gave me a

robe of righteousness. He gave me a brand new life, not just a coat—He transformed me from the inside out. He gave me some nice threads by the way in the process, but He gave me everything new. I traded in old and got new. I exchanged an old, rotten life for a brand new life. He wants to do that for everyone here.

WALK AFTER THE FLESH/SPIRIT (Diagram 170-D)

Please look with me at your last diagram, 170-D. The top part of this diagram is “Walk After the Flesh,” and the bottom half is “Walk After the Spirit.” Here again, you see the individual’s spirit, soul, and body. The fact is true in both of these that this person is spiritual, this person has been saved, this person is enlightened, this person is indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit. So you see that’s the same in both diagrams. That’s the spiritual fact, but the function is much different isn’t it? The function in the soul in the top one is walking after the flesh. This person is believing what he or she thinks is true, how he or she feels, or what other people say, more than what God says. So the person’s function is in error, it’s not correct. The person’s body begins or may cause or may show up problems because of that wrong functioning.

As you look at the bottom diagram, “Walking After God’s Spirit,” you see this person is spiritually alive. He or she is functioning correctly. This person’s soul is complete, has sufficiency and freedom in Christ, and so lives at peace. The person’s body is offered up as God’s property. He or she is renewed daily, hourly, by the minute, second by second, millisecond by millisecond. The person becomes disciplined and the person’s life begins to reveal and demonstrate the very life of Christ. Now it could be said that this top person knows *about* God. The bottom person knows God.

Let me try to illustrate that for you. One of my favorite characters in the Bible is Joe, Joseph. Joseph was engaged to Mary, the Virgin Mary,

the mother of our Lord Jesus. Joe found out Mary was PG. He took her home to be his wife, but he did not know her as a husband knows a wife did he? She went the nine months of pregnancy, she went through the delivery, she went through the process of ritualistic purification by the law present at that time, so about a year after Joe took Mary to be his wife, he finally knew her as a husband knows a wife. See, Joe knew her growing up. Joe knew her before he brought her to his house. He knew her while they lived together, but he didn’t really know her until he knew her like a husband knows a wife.

I want you to come to know God, not just as someone you live with, someone you’ve been around, but somebody you’re intimately, personally involved with on a daily basis. And you love to get alone with Him. You love to talk to Him about everything, and you love to share with Him what’s going on in your life the same way a husband shares with a wife and a wife shares with a husband. That’s the way I want you to know God: as your identity, as your very life. That’s walking in God’s Spirit after God’s Spirit. That’s functioning in a practical relationship with God.

Now when I’m walking in this relationship, how does it affect sin? You see, I died to sin with Christ Jesus on the cross. Sin no longer has any power or dominion or authority over me. See, I used to have to sin. I didn’t have any choice. Now I have a clear choice. It’s like some people who have a beeper. You know, I’m not one of those important people that has one but, you have a beeper on and somebody calls your beeper and when you are a natural man, when you’re a sinner, you’ve got to answer the call. You don’t have any choice. But after you become a Christian, the beeper goes off “lust, Bill, lust” beep, beep, beep, “sin, Bill, sin” beep, beep, beep. I can look at the beeper and say that call’s not for me and put it back on. I don’t have to answer that call. I don’t have to obey

the beeper of the world, the flesh, or the Devil. I don't have to sin any more. I am free not to do that because of my identity in Christ.

I have this identity. I am seated right now with Christ in the heavens. This may be difficult to believe, but I am because of Christ's works. I don't always feel holy, but God says I am, and I am. God says I am righteous, I have the very righteousness of Christ. God says it. I believe it. That's it. Done. I am righteous. I could go on and on and on with the identities that are true about me because of what God has done. I am a spiritual being. I have a soul and I live in a body. The spiritual aspect of me, what Christ has done, is the most important part. That is my identity—who I am in Christ.

Now, here's our choice and function. "Hubba. Hubba. Hubba. Who are you going to believe?" I think that's a line out of Batman, one of the Batman movies the Joker does, "Hubba. Hubba. Hubba. Who are you going to believe?" Are you going to believe others or yourself, or are you going to believe God? Those are your choices. Which one of those three is trustworthy? By golly, it's not me, it's not others, it's not you, God's the only trustworthy one. Believe in what He says about you, who He says you are. That's the most important thing about you. Not what others say, not what you've believed in the past, not how you look, not how you feel. That's all peripheral. What's the most important part? What God has done for you.

REVIEW

Look with me at your review page in conclusion. Number 1, "I am given the life of Christ." God gave it to me by grace.

Number 2, "I am no longer dead, but alive 'in Christ.'" Hallelujah!

Number 3, "I am no longer a slave to sin. It is a choice now."

Number 4, "I am a new creation—God's child!"

The next one. "I am to be transformed by the renewing of my mind." Within my soul, the battleground will be in my mind, the battleground will be in your mind. Think on God. Think on His ways. Memorize the truth. Be involved with His Word. Believe Him and what He says. Think on these things. Don't be conformed to the world's image anymore. Don't think like the world, think like God. It's totally different.

When I flew out here to do this lesson, I looked down from the airplane at the world below and I was thinking God sees things from a totally different perspective than I do. Look at things from God's perspective, not the world's. Renew your mind. Hang around people who walk in their identity in Christ. Dialogue about this. Read about it. Don't just be dumping in TV all the time. Get into God's Word. Get into some good books that will help you understand who you are.

Lastly, "I am to appropriate His very life." There are bright lights shining on me right now and if I went over and unplugged any of those lights, they'd quit working. They still are lights, but if they're not plugged in they don't work. You and I are lights in the world. Stay plugged into God. Stay attached to Him. Stay involved with Him. You've been grafted into a wonderful olive tree. Enjoy that, allow that sap to flow through your life and become your very life. Paul says, "You are a wild olive branch, Bill, and I've grafted you into the perfect vine." Amen. I was a wild rascal. Now, in Christ Jesus, it's His life flowing through me, He's changing me. Praise God. I am so thankful. My wife says, "Double . . . double bless him, God." Transform him God. Amen. I want to be changed into the likeness of Christ. It's available to you and me.

Remember this fact: meaning and purpose in your life flow from who you believe yourself to

be. They flow from your identity. Function out of an identity focused on Christ—God being number one in your life, others being second, and yourself being third. Keep God number one. Look to others, then yourself. An easy way to remember that is **JOY, Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last**. If you walk in that identity, if you walk in Jesus being the most important thing in your life, Him being your very life, He will transform you. Let's pray in closing. "Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us this graceful, wonderful life. Praise be to You, God, You

have made it all possible. You have adopted us as children. We can now stand here and say, 'Abba, Father, thank You for blessing us.' Father, I pray that You touch the lives of the people who are listening to this lesson right now, that they would see their identity in relationship to You. Your Holy Spirit can anoint them right where they sit. Reveal to them the truth of who You are and what You have done for them and how they can walk in an intimate, loving, personal, dynamic, powerful, life-changing relationship with You. Oh, Father, thank You. In the presence of Your Holy Spirit and the powerful name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen." Thank you.