

Your Identity in Christ
I am loved by God!
Romans 5:5-8

The reason this lesson is important is this:

You will only be loved the way you are meant to be loved when you allow yourself to be loved by God. Your only opportunity to experience **perfect godly love** is the love that comes from God.

Our struggle to receive love...

1. We have been hurt. (*Live in an imperfect world*)
2. We are busy. (*Hard to slow down and establish deep relationships*)
3. We think we need to earn love. (*Performance oriented society*)
4. We think we are unworthy to be loved. (*Have to measure up*)

Being loved by God with His perfect love is an experience that we all need on a regular basis.

Imperfect love is not how God loves you. To receive what you have been made to receive – perfect love – can only be found in a relationship with God.

The FACT of God's love.

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

The demonstration of God's love is connected to a historical event. Events in history cannot be changed.

The ongoing, every day, continuous display of God's love for you is the cross of Jesus which is an unchangeable fact of history. You cannot change an event in history. It's locked in. Permanent.

The FEELING of God's love.

God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Rom 5:5

The reality of God's love for you is communicated to your senses by the Holy Spirit. This is internal, and it is subjective. *God has poured His love into your heart.* That's an emotional aspect of who you are. God wants you not to just know that you are loved by Him but to feel that you are loved by Him. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, you can experience the love of God in such a significant way that it can be a strength of yours.

The outward, objective display of God's love for you is the cross. And that is certain.

The internal, subjective display of God's love for you is given to you through the presence of the Holy Spirit. AND – it is just as certain.

What can happen, if you're not careful, is you can carry a lower view of God's love for you because you have never been on the receiving end of a perfect and godly love.

God is perfect throughout His entire being. From eternity past to eternity future, God is perfect in His entirety. We can apply this to the quality and quantity of God's love for you. In terms of quality, God cannot love you any better than He does right now because His love for you is already perfect. In terms of quantity, God cannot love you any more than He does right now because His love for you is already perfect.

Your Identity in Christ

A Seven Week Series on Our Identity As Christians

I Am a Saint

Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:21)

The Apostle Paul's favorite way to refer to Christians was with the term saint. The term saint means holy or set apart. You are a saint!

I Am a Child of God

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

To be a Christian is to be adopted into God's family. You are a child of God!

I Am in Christ

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. (2 Cor 5:17)

All of God's great promises to Christians are fulfilled through the person of Jesus Christ. Rejoice Christian, you are in Christ!

I Am Loved by God

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8) God cannot improve upon the quality of love for you because God is perfect, so He already loves you with a perfect love. You are loved by God!

I Am Redeemed

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (Eph 1:7)

The value of an object can be seen in what someone is willing to pay for that object. God purchased you at the cost of His Son. You have been redeemed!

I Am Perfect in Christ

He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. (Col 1:22)

You might be a great sinner, but Jesus is a great Savior. Through the gospel, you are declared to be perfectly righteous. You are perfect in Christ!

I Am Significant

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9) You are significant because of what Jesus has done for you, not because of what you have done for Jesus. You are significant!