

## **INTRO.**

Last week I shared with you what the difference was between being in Christ and being in union with Christ ... As usual – I gave you a broad – overview of these two concepts ... So today – I want to go deeper into the principle I introduced – focusing on what it truly means to be in Christ as it pertains to our identity.

## **Being in Christ – Creates a New Identity**

### **What is Identity?**

Our identity in Christ is not simply a shift in belief or behavior ... It is not a process of reprogramming old thought patterns – improving moral conduct – or conforming to religious expectations ... Identity is much deeper than an intellectual upgrade with spiritual concepts ... Identity is far deeper than self-improvement – it is a spiritual transformation at the very core of our being ... Identity is not something we create; it is something God imparts through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit ... This transformation is so profound that it makes us into a new kind of being - - a Kainos creation (a Greek term meaning "new in nature, unlike anything before").

## **How is our New Identity Created?**

### **It Begins with a Spiritual Rebirth**

#### **Titus 3:5 New King James Version**

Not by works of righteousness which we have done - but according to His mercy He saved us, ... through the washing of regeneration ... and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

## **"Washing of Regeneration" (Spiritual Rebirth)**

The word “washing” represents cleansing from sin, but this is more than just an external cleansing from sin - - it is an internal purification. ... It is a supernatural act where God removes the stain of sin – not just covering it up – but completely cleansing the person’s soul – removing the stain entirely ... This cleansing is not just forgiveness – it’s a complete removal of sin’s power and grip over one’s life ... This cleansing is so deep – that in God’s eyes – it is as if you had never sinned.

The word “regeneration” means "rebirth" or being made new ... This speaks of the radical change where we go from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive ... It is a spiritual recreation of a person’s inner being ... This rebirth is not just a metaphor; it is a fundamental re-creation of our spiritual nature ... This is not a self-improvement process whereby we are improving the old nature ... It is God giving a person a brand-new nature through His Spirit ... It’s not just being forgiven of sin ...It’s being made brand new – into a Kainos being – that is viewed by God – as having never sinned.

### **"Renewing of the Holy Spirit" (Ongoing Transformation)**

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is the supernatural transformation of a person’s inner being ... It is the moment when spiritual life begins ... This is not merely a moral improvement – but a complete rebirth where the Holy Spirit breathes new life into a person – making them spiritually alive in Christ ... Let me give you this illustration for clarity’s sake ... When you became born-again – you became a Kainos being – a person that never existed before ... Now that you are a Kainos being – you need to be programmed – in order to function properly ... This programming is a function of the Holy Spirit whereby He is actively renewing our mind ... Not the physical organ that resided in our skull ... But the new heart – our new being – that was born from above.

Let me caution you at this point ... This world will try to keep you confined to the “old you” ... You mind – because of spiritual warfare – will try to keep you in bondage to your past sins ... You must consciously make the shift ... You must consciously acknowledge that the old you is

dead – and the new you – Kainos being – is the “real you” that will live for all eternity ... If you do not make this conscious shift – you will never experience the fullness of your salvation.

### **Galatians 2:20 New Life Version**

I have been put up on the cross to die with Christ. ... I no longer live. ... Christ lives in me. ... The life I now live in this body, I live by putting my trust in the Son of God. He was the One Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### **It is Continually Created through the Process of Mind Renewal**

Our new identity in Christ is given to us instantly at salvation – but the process of mind renewal – to the place that it manifests in our lifestyle – takes time ... The key to fully embracing who we are "in Christ" is to make a conscious decision that we are a completely new creation ... After that decision is made – we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He programs our being with Kingdom revelational truths ... This programming also involves – giving permission to ourselves to expand our spiritual consciousness – to where we will receive – the more than we can imagine or think.

Remember – if you don't make the conscious shift to die to the old man – and put on or identify with the new man – you will always struggle with this renewal process ... Our old man still possesses our old thought patterns – habits – and beliefs ... It will fight you when you try to receive anything new that is outside of this paradigm.

**Practical Application:** Think of mind renewal – like installing a new operating system on a new computer ... You are the new computer (Kainos being) in need of new programming (transformation) ... You are not an old computer – simply looking to install updates ... This is an essential principle to grasp – if you truly desire to walk out your divine destiny.

### **Our Thought Patterns Must Align with Truth**

### **Ephesians 4:22-24 Amplified Bible**

That, regarding your previous way of life, - - you put off your old self [completely discard your former nature], - which is being corrupted through deceitful desires, ... 23 and be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude], ... 24 and put on the new self [the regenerated and renewed nature], - created in God's image, [godlike] - in the righteousness and holiness of the truth [living in a way that expresses to God your gratitude for your salvation

**This text illustrates the active role we must play in our own mind renewal process:**

**1. We must put off our old mindset** ... Spiritually, putting off your old mindset means releasing the thoughts, beliefs, and patterns that shaped our past, our fleshly lifestyle, and the world's influence and replacing them with the truth of who we are in Christ ... It is an intentional process of shifting from an identity formed by sin, fear, and self-effort ... To an identity of one that is rooted in God's truth, grace, and the Holy Spirit.

**2. We must put on our new mindset** ... Spiritually, putting on a new mindset means intentionally embracing the thoughts, beliefs, and perspectives that align with God's truth ... It is a transformation of the mind that shapes how you see yourself, your circumstances, and God ... It's not just about rejecting the old ... It's about replacing it with a renewed way of thinking that reflects your identity in Christ.

**3. We must put on our new self** ... Putting on your new self is a spiritual transformation where you embrace your new identity in Christ and live according to His truth. ... It is not just about behavior change, but a deep, internal renewal that reflects who you have become in Him ... It is a deep knowing that what the scriptures say about you are true ... It is where you personalize the scriptures whereby your lifestyle reflexes the realities of God's word in this realm.

**Mind Renewal is a Continuous Process**

**Colossians 3:10 New Living Translation**

Put on your new nature, - and be renewed - as you learn to know your Creator - and become like him.

The Greek word for “being renewed” means an ongoing process - - it’s not a onetime event ... It is a process that must be engaged with on a daily basis ... Every day – you made a choice as to how you will think and function ... And the reality is – many people struggle with this process.

## **Why Do People Struggle with Their New Identity?**

### **They never truly break free from old thought patterns and habits**

Breaking free from old mindsets and habits is difficult because transformation requires more than just desire ... Transformation requires a purposeful effort – a staunch persistence – and spiritual dependency upon the power of the Holy Spirit ... Some key reasons why people can’t break free – are a lack of consistency in the process of mind renewal ... Emotional and spiritual bondage to past traumas ... And becoming so comfortable with the familiar that there is no desire to break free ... Along with a lack of practical application in living out their new identity

### **Worldly Influences**

This is what I would call – being stuck in the matrix ... Being so engrained with worldly ideology – along with being comfortable with the familiar – that there is absolutely no desire to change ... You allow the culture and other influences of this realm to create your identity – and you are comfortable with that.

### **Roman 12:2 Message**

Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture - that you fit into it without even thinking. ... Instead, fix your attention on God.

### **Lack of Biblical Knowledge and or Spiritual revelation**

As the scripture states – My people perish for lack of knowledge ... This is either ignorance of what the Word of God has to say – because you don’t spend any time reading it for yourself ... Or you may have a lot of biblical – intellectual knowledge – yet you have no revelational experience that the Word of God is actually true.

### **John 8:31-32 The Message**

Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. ... “If you stick with this, - living out what I tell you, - - you are my disciples for sure. ... Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, - - and the truth will free you.”

### **Emotional Woundedness**

Past rejections – personal failures – and emotional scars are hindering you from believing that what the word of God has to say is actually true ... Your emotional woundedness has kept you from experiencing the realities of God’s word for yourself.

### **How to Break Free from your Identity Struggles**

1. Read and meditate upon the Word of God daily
2. Identity worldly ideologies and replace them with spiritual truth
3. Embrace your new identity in Christ
4. Surround yourself with supportive believers