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Identity In Christ

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**Key Verses:** Romans 8:15-17; Gal. 3:26-4:7; 1 Peter 2:9-10

**Six Biblical Truths:**

**TRUTH 1: WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Some see themselves as God's unfavored foster children: The Christians with perfect faces and tidy lives are His *real* children. As we look at Scriptures on God's love and talk about being part of a loving family (not the shattered family that many have experienced), we begin to see our true status as God's dearly loved children.

**TRUTH 2: WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE FATHER.**

Because we are God's children, He is constantly available to us. We can climb confidently onto His lap—"approach the throne of grace," as Heb. 4:16 puts it—and whisper into His ear anytime, anyplace, and in any circumstance. God delights in coming to our aid. Many of the Psalms reinforce this marvelous truth (see 46:1, 50:15, and 91:15).

**TRUTH 3: WE ARE CONDEMNATION-FREE.**

In a world that portrays God as a stern school monitor waiting to smack our knuckles, we all need to be reminded that God meets us in grace and forgiveness. As Romans 8:1 reminds us, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

**TRUTH 4: WE ARE CHANGED.**

How different the world would be if every believer knew, really knew, he was a changed person in Christ (2 Cor. 5:16-17)! One of the most important assurances we have is of God's ongoing presence within us. The same power that enabled Jesus to rise from the dead is available for us to live by each day (Ro. 8:10-11, Eph. 1:19-20).

**TRUTH 5: WE ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.**

First Thessalonians 5:24 reminds us, "The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it." Philippians 1:6 tells us that "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." God promises to keep us blameless until He comes; He says He will accomplish what He started.

**TRUTH 6: YOU ARE PART OF A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE BELONGING TO GOD**

You have a new relationship with God—you can call Him "Daddy" (see Romans 8:15). You have a new relationship with other Christians—a nation, a family, the Body of Christ (1 Peter 2:9-10).

## **QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

### **Personal Life:**

1. What is the best part of being in the family of God?
2. How is your relationship with your parents? How has this impacted your view of God as Father?
3. How would you explain to an unbeliever your own relationship with God and your identity as a child of God?

### **Ponderings:**

4. What effect does being "in Christ" have on relationships among believers? (Galatians 3:28)
5. How has God intervened to alter human history and adopt us as full heirs? (Galatians 4:4-5)

### **Promptings**

6. What does it mean to you personally to be made "complete" in Christ and to have everything you need for life and godliness?
7. How does it feel to know that you are chosen by God—that He chose you and loves you, no matter where you've been or what you've done? Is that hard for you to believe? Why or why not?
8. How do you see yourself as a "royal priest?" How will this affect your relationship with God and in every other area of your life? (1 Peter 2:9-10)