**Edward Christian Church Identity: *Who Are You?* July 26, 2016 pt4**

**What** is your **real identity**? What **is** an **identity**? **Is** **identity** something you are **born** with? Is it **changeable** or **never** able to **change**?

 **What Causes the Struggle with Identity?**

**Most** people experience **confusion** about ***who they really*** *are* because they **lack** a **biblical** understanding of what **determines** their **identity**. Your **behavior** is an **outgrowth** of your **identity**. Our **personal** identity is **determined** by what **"family"** we are **born** into. **Spiritually**, we were **born** into **"Adam's family."** **No** one in **Adam's family** has the **capacity** to **live** as God **designed** us to **live**.

A **new** spiritual **life** is made **possible** in the person of the **Lord Jesus Christ**. To **embrace** Him as **personal** **Lord** /**Savior** is to **inherit** a new **family** and **identity** **"in Christ."** With this new **identity** you will **begin** to **develop** Christlike **character** by choosing to **rely** on Him to **deal** with your **daily problems**.

 *"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."* -**1 Corinthians 15:22**

**The Family of Adam**
Every **individual** is born into the family of **Adam**, is **identified** with Adam will exhibit the **character** of Adam. Adam represents the **humanistic** view of life. -**The One in Adam…**

* + **sees human beings in** control **of** events **and** circumstances**.**
	+ **believes there is no** absolute **truth; everything is** relative**.**
	+ **believes in** choosing **one's own moral** restraints**.**
	+ **sees** self-fulfillment **as life's highest** purpose**.**

**To be *in Adam*** means **that you are an** heir **to** everything **he was.***"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." -***Romans 5:12**

**The Family of Christ**
**God** has made it **possible** for any **individual** to have a **new** identity by **moving** us out of the family of **Adam** and **adopting** us into the family of **Christ**.

* **Everyone** who is *"in Christ"* **experiences** a **new birth**—"*I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again"* -**John 3:3**, **receives** a **new heart**—"*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh"* -**Ezekiel 36:26**, and becomes **conformed** to the **character of Christ**—*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers"* -**Romans 8:29**. **The One in Christ…**
	+ **Sees God in** Control **of** Events **and** Circumstances**.**   *"The Lord works out everything for his own ends*—*even the wicked for a day of disaster." -***Prov 16:4**
	+ **Is Set** Free **By the Truth.**   *"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" -***John 8:31-32**
	+ **Knows Moral** Absolutes **that** Establish **Godly Behavior.**   *"You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. "* **-Psalm 119:4**
	+ **Sees** Fulfilling **the** Will **of God as Life's** Highest Purpose.
	   *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord, 'will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." -***Matthew 7:21**

**To Be *in Christ*** Means **that You Are an** Heir **to** Everything **He Is.**

 *"If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."* -**Galatians 3:29**

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