

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

20 September 2020

English Worship Service

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.30 pm

**Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415);
Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045); Elder Royce Yeo (HP : 9362 3067)**

Who am I in Christ?

In the recent years, we humans seem to have an identity crisis. Many have questioned who they are, in terms of their gender, their relationship and role in the family and their belonging in the society. There is no constant and clear-cut definition for these people pertaining to their identity.

As a result, this identity crisis affected them in many ways. They have no definable and fixed goal in their lives, no clear direction and purpose for living, and so they behaved wildly. Like a buoy in the ocean which is not anchored, drifting with the ocean currents, existence is an endless tossing to nowhere. Lives for many became a grim and joyless chore. Some persevered on but are wearied by this identity crisis. For some, this identity crisis has led them to a multitude of emotional and mental stresses and daily living is a constant and tiring challenge. There are some who turned nasty and switched onto the 'survival belongs to the fittest' mode, and they became a constant source of pain and discomfort for others.

What cause this identity crisis? From the Bible, the answer is Sin. Sin in depraved men brought about the countless problems we see today in the individuals, in the families, in the societies, in the countries and in the world.

Resolving this identity crisis in our lives will give us the right meaning and purpose for our living which in turn will resolve the many problems we faced in our lives. Resolving this identity crisis by our relationship with Jesus Christ and the word of God will give meaning and purpose for our lives. Our life purpose can only be established in our true identity in Christ.

Now back to the question – Who am I in Christ? To answer this question, we need to ask first this question – Who am I before I am in Christ? Who am I before Christ is revealed to me by the Holy Spirit? Who am I before the Light of God is shone into my heart?

Let see what the Bible says. I pray that by knowing your true identity and what God has to say about who

you are before and after you became a child of God will help you live a Christ-driven and Christ-centered life.

Who am I before I am in Christ?

Before Christ come into my heart, the Bible says:

- a. I was heavy laden, had no rest and peace of God. (Mat 11:28)
- b. I was under the condemnation of God. (Jn 3:18, Rom 5:18)
- c. I was an enemy of God. (Rom 5:10; Eph 2:25-16)
- d. I was slaved to the law of sin and death. (Rom 8:2)
- e. I was under the curse of the law. (Gal 3:13)
- f. I was dead in my trespasses and sins. (Eph 2:1, 5; Col 2:13)
- g. I was alienated from the life of God, ignorant, have no understanding and blind to the things of God. (Rom 1:31; Eph 4:17-18)
- h. I was under the dominion of darkness (Eph 5:8; Col 1:13)
- i. I was foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. (Tit 3:3)
- j. I was a child of darkness and of the night (1Th 5:5)
- k. I was destined for judgment. (Heb 9:27)

Our identity before we are in Christ, before we come to faith in Jesus Christ is one marred by sin. This sin-marred identity in us drives us away from the living and true God, causes us to love darkness instead of light, makes us enemies of God, enslaves us to sin and to the Devil, and so we become minions in the kingdom of Darkness, puts us under the curse of the law, one which we are incapable of fulfilling in our own moral strength and human will, gives our hearts no rest, and we have no peace with God, sets us on the path of destruction and judgment, and leads us to eternal separation from God our Creator.

It is a cursed identity when we are without Christ, when we are outside the blessed umbrella of God. Such were our lots before we are in Christ – without hope and rushing toward that hopeless end. Clearly, it is this reason why the apostle said in Romans 8:21-22, that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth, waiting to be delivered from its bondage of corruption. For this reason, the whole creation is in the throes of corruption, and in the agony of death.

Do you want to get out of this state of sin-marred identity, this curse identity without Christ? Well you can, by the grace of God. Come to Jesus Christ. Repent of your sin. Confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Believe that He died on the cross at Calvary to bear your sin on your behalf, and that He rose again from the dead on the third day that your faith in Him shall not be in vain. Your hope in Jesus Christ shall be certain and you shall have a new identity in Christ. Not the cursed identity before you are in Christ but a blessed identity in Christ.

Who am I in Christ?

After Christ come into my heart, the Bible says:

- a. I am a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Jn 1:12, Gal 3:26, Eph 1:5)
- b. I am God's sheep and He is my good Shepherd. (Jn 10:11)
- c. I am a branch of the holy Vine in Christ. (Jn15:5)
- d. I am justified by faith and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:1)
- e. I am no longer slaved to sin, rather I am slaved to righteousness. (Rom 6:18)
- f. I am no longer under condemnation of God. (Rom 8:1, Jn 5:24)
- g. I am an heir of God and joint heir with Christ. (Rom 8:17)
- h. I am more than a conqueror through Him who loved me. (Rom 8:37)
- i. I am a saint, sanctified and set apart for Christ. (1Co 1:12)
- j. I am a new creature - old things are passed away, all things are become new. (2Co 5:17)
- k. I am an ambassador of Christ. (2Co 5:20)
- l. I am redeemed from the curse of the law by Christ. (Gal 3:13)
- m. I am made alive together with Christ. (Eph 2:5)
- n. I am raised up and seated in the heavenly places in Christ. (Eph 2:6)
- o. I am saved by grace. (Eph 2:8)
- p. I am now God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. (Eph 2:10, 4:24)
- q. I am crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. (Gal 2:20)
- r. I am able to do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Php 4:13)
- s. I am reconciled to God (Col 1:22)
- t. I am loved by God. (1 Th 1:4)
- u. I am equipped with a spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2Ti 1:7)
- v. I am of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people. (1Pe 2:9a)
- w. I am called out of darkness into God's marvelous light (1 Pe 2:9b, Col 1:13)

Our identity after we are in Christ, after we come to faith in Jesus Christ is one adorned by the grace of God, a completely new identity in Christ. Our dead spirits are made alive in Christ. We are longer subjects of the kingdom of Darkness, rather we are citizens of the Kingdom of God. No longer minions under the power of the Devil, rather we are saints, God's workmanship unto holiness and righteousness. We are no more children of the night but have become children of the day. Sin has no more dominion over us. We are set free from slavery to sin, to be slaves of righteousness.

In other word, God has quickened and enabled us to do His will, to accomplish His ordained purpose for our lives, to be set apart for Him. We are no longer tossed here and there by the teachings of these sin cursed world. Our bearing, our compass for our lives is Christ. We are equipped with all His divine power that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them we may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Pet 1:2-3)

As God's chosen people in Christ, we are no longer His enemies, rather, we are reconciled to Him and have become children of God, heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ. Loved of God, loved by Him. Justified. All our sins are forgiven. No more under the condemnation of God. What a blessed thought! How great

is our blessing in Christ! We are more than conquerors in Christ!

Our identity in Christ is a blessed identity. It is good for you and I to return to this true standing of who we are in Christ. Knowing who we are in Christ, daily reminding ourselves of it, will reap much goodly outcomes in our Christian journey and we can shout out loud – “Rejoice in the Lord. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal 2:20; Php 4:4)

Do you want to have this identity in Christ? Come to Jesus Christ. Acknowledge and confess that He is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, *and* you will be saved. (Rom 10:9)

Conclusion

Choose this day what identity you want to have. Choose this day to be identified with Christ in His death and resurrection. Pray that God will impress deeply in your heart who you are in Christ that your life, your conversation, your conduct and action will be Christ-like, well pleasing to God and bring glory to His Name. May this knowledge motivate you to live for Christ victoriously.

Elder Daniel Tau

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Dear Prayer Warrior,

Writing to young Timothy, Paul warned him not to be over-hasty in laying on hands in ordination (1 Timothy 5:22). Thank you for praying for the installation of Elders and Deacon last Lord's Day. Royce Yeo was installed as Elder and Ron Chua as Deacon of the church. I thank God for raising up godly and faithful leaders for Maranatha. They need wisdom, good judgement, courage, grace and strength to fulfil their duties and responsibilities.



Please remember them in fervent prayer that God may guide them, keep and protect them in every way. Thank you very much for your partnership in the Gospel in the Eastern part of Singapore. May God bless you richly. Amen.

Pastor Colin Wong

Theme for the Quarter :
FREE IN CHRIST
(An Exposition on the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians)

English Worship Service :
Rev Colin Wong speaks on The Gospel of Grace (Galatians 2:1-10)