

Secure through our Identity in Christ

“Who am I?” “Why am I here?” These questions are rooted deep in all human hearts. If we lack a proper understanding about how God defines our identity, we will turn to other things for acceptance and security. Let’s renew our minds by reminding ourselves of the wealth in Christ we have described in Ephesians 1. As you read, underline what you possess *in Christ*. Note what blessings we have from God the Father (vs 3-6), God the Son (7-12), and God the Holy Spirit (13-14).

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:* ⁴ *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:* ⁵ *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,* ⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.* ⁷ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;* ⁸ *Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;* ⁹ *Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:* ¹⁰ *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:* ¹¹ *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:* ¹² *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

Meditate on these summarized descriptions of our identity from these verses:

Seated Graced
Predestined
Accepted Adopted
Blessed
Redeemed
Chosen

Who is the subject or the initiator of all of these descriptions? _____ So our security has nothing to do with us! God has lavished these blessings on His children!

Share with your group: which description do you connect with the most or have special appreciation for?

As we have been gifted all these blessings in Christ, Colossians 2:10 says “*ye are complete in Him.*” The word “complete” means to be filled or supplied. But there is more to it; this word implies a very generous filling, to supply so fully and so abundantly that nothing is lacking...ever. So being complete in Christ means we need nothing else. He is sufficient! He is all we need for every circumstance, every sin struggle, and every problem that we could ever encounter in this life. And He is everything we need for eternal life as well. What do you need? You find it supplied in Christ! What security this truth can bring.

Sadly our wandering hearts often look to other things for security in time of need. Jeremiah 2:13 describes it this way:

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

We dig out broken water pots that can barely hold water and expect to find satisfaction and security in that instead of drinking from the well of living water (John 4:14). These broken water pots leave us just as thirsty and needy as before.

In your life, what broken water pot have you turned to in order to obtain acceptance or security? _____

What were the consequences of your decision to look for rescue in something else instead of God?

We learn from Ephesians that our progression in sanctification involves putting off, renewing our minds, and putting on. *Putting off* looking for security in other things should lead to *putting on* delighting in our relationship with God. God desires to be the object of our delight! So what does that look like practically? How can we reject our broken water pots of security and put on a thriving relationship with our satisfying Savior?

As you read the following verses, look for descriptions of what it “looks like” to delight in God. Discuss how we can cultivate our friendship with God.

Psalm 1:1-2

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his **delight** is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

Psalm 37:4-5

***Delight** thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

Psalm 40:8

*I **delight** to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

Psalm 119:16, 24

*I will **delight** myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. Thy testimonies also are my **delight** and my counselors.*

Based on these passages, discuss with your group what it means for you, practically, to delight in God.

Are there any changes you need to make in your life in order to make God the one and only object of delight that you consistently pursue? What steps do you need to take to further cultivate your delight in God?

