

Remnant Life Church

October 19, 2025

Your Real ID

Ephesians 4:22-24

In 2005, a federal law called the Real ID Act was put in place by our government as an ongoing response to 9/11

- And its purpose, at least according to their explanation, is to provide heightened security and better protect your identity
 - You now need to have this type of ID in order to board a plane
 - You also need it to enter certain federal buildings
- And while there are, I think obviously, still many gaps in the security of our nation, all 50 states as well as the 5 inhabited territories, are compliant with this law

And so I began thinking that this fits within the realm of asking the question, “Who are you?”

- Of course you have a name, given to you when you were born
- You look and sound and act like you
- And perhaps you are known for a skill, a strength, or talent you possess
- All of these help to answer the question, “Who are you?”

And there are, in fact, two ways that you are known

- How others see you
- And how you see yourself
- And there is likely a great disparity in those two views

Let’s take it even further because often who you are is determined by where you are and what you are doing

- You are who you are at work
- At home
- With your friends
- When you are alone

But the one determining factor of who you are, that seems to be considered the least, yet is without question the most important, is who you are according to God’s view of you

- For a believer, those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, who you are in Christ is the single most important answer to the question of, “Who are you?”

READ – Ephesians 4:22-24

The Bible emphasizes the believer’s identity in Christ as a central theme

- In particular the NT writings of Paul and Peter
- They continually underscored the fact that having accepted Jesus Christ into your heart means that you are not only transformed, but you are redefined because of your relationship with Him.
 - Paul writes in **2 Cor 5:17** that believers are “new creations” in Christ

- What this signifies is a spiritual rebirth and a departure, a change, a transformation from who you used to be
- Not only are you changed, Paul goes on to write in **Eph 1:5** and **Rom 8:17**, but through faith in Christ you are adopted into God's family
 - And therefore, are regarded as heirs in Christ

Now let's consider for a moment what that phrase "in Christ" means to us and our identity

- It means that in Christ, you are defined by your relationship with Him, rather than by the worldly standards of identity and worth.
 - How does the world measure your worth and value?
 - By the size of your bank account
 - The number and value of your possessions
 - The type of job you have
 - How famous you are
 - Your appearance
 - How are you affirmed in Christ? (It is very different)
 - You are a new creation (**2 Cor 5:17**)
 - You are complete in Him (**Col 2:10**)
 - You are free from the law of sin and death (**Rom 8:2**)
 - You are far from oppression (**Isa 54:14**)
 - IOW there is freedom in Christ
 - You are made in the image of God (**Gen 1:27**)
 - You are God's masterpiece (**Eph 2:10**)
 - You are fearfully and wonderfully made (**Psa 139:14**)
 - You are a child of God (**John 1:12**)
 - There are many more...
- But it is obvious that the Bible teaches us that our deepest identity is not found in what we achieve, what others say about us, or even in our own feelings.
 - It is found in God
 - You were created in God's image
 - Yet sin desires to distort that image and leaves us searching for significance and worth in all the wrong places

Yet it is not enough to simply know who you are in Christ, as vitally important as that is, you must live out that identity

- That means walking in the freedom and confidence that comes from belonging to Christ
 - And when you do, it changes how you see the world
 - It changes the impact you are willing to allow the world to have in your life
 - And it changes how you respond to the world

READ - Acts 3:1-10

A man crippled since birth asked John and Peter for money

- But they were not wealthy because they had just begun preaching Jesus just after His resurrection and ascension back to heaven
- In their answer and their actions, they declared who they were

- In that act of healing they declared, we belong to Jesus!
- How did they do that?
- Look again at the second part of verse 6
 - *In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!*
- They fully aligned themselves with the power of Jesus and, through their actions said, we belong to Him!
- Their credentials for the power to heal were not based on what they had done, but on their relationship with Jesus

Consider these three verses as you ask the question, “Do my actions reveal who I belong to?”

- **I Cor 6:19** – *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.*
- **Col 3:1** – *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*
- **Phil 4:13** – *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

You are not who the world says you are
 You are who God in Christ says you are

The world will always try to define you by your past, your mistakes, or your successes.
 But God defines you by His love and truth, which changes everything.

Many of you know the name Jeff Foxworthy

- He was and is a very successful comedian who often focused his humor on being a redneck (He was born in Atlanta, GA)
- He introduced a segment in his stand-up routine that was in essence what identified someone as a redneck
- He would make a statement of behavior and follow it with...you might be a redneck
 - If you use your fishing license as a form of identification...
 - If your secret family recipe is illegal...
 - If your momma has ammo on her Christmas wish list...
 - If you have ever taken a fishing pole to Sea World...
 - If you have ever made change in the offering plate...
- And so the entire premise of this routine is that you know by their behavior the type of person they are
- Here is my closing question for you this morning...
 - What do people know about you by your behavior?
 - I think there are three ways this can be answered
 - The first is that people think you are just like anybody else
 - The second is they don't anything about you
 - Or third, do they know that you belong to the King of the universe and follow a risen Savior by the way you act and the things you do?

It begins with who you think you are!

It is not how the world identifies you but how God Himself sees you

He sees you as...

- His child
- His best creation
- The one He loves

May I encourage you this morning, with that knowledge secure in your heart and mind, to live and act every day as a child of God!

Because to do that will clearly answer the question of, “Who are you.”