

# Your Identity In Christ

You Are A Child Of God

The Bible demonstrates that those who are in Christ have a rich spiritual identity. This involves being a child of God. Yet, while it is common for people to identify as “Christians,” many may be unfamiliar with what it means for Christians to be children of God. Still, we see this concept plainly taught in the pages of Scripture (John 1:10-13). Therefore, if you are going to fulfill your true purpose in Jesus Christ, you must embrace your identity as a child of God and all this involves.

**1) You have become a child of God.** The Scriptures distinguish between children of the devil (those lost in sin) and children of God (those saved in Christ, John 8:44; 1 John 3:8-10). People who sin *become* children of God through faith-filled obedience to Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:24-29). Consider the two distinct images of becoming children of God depicted in Scripture.

First, you have been born into the family of God. The physical descendants of Abraham (Jews) had at one time been considered the children of God. However, being children of God is not about being born of the right family descent (Matthew 3:8-10; John 1:10-13). Instead, it is about being spiritually reborn through accepting Jesus as the Messiah and being obedient to Him (John 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:22-25). In this way, all Christians are part of God’s family that is spiritual Israel rather than physical Israel (Romans 9:6, 22-26; 11:11-32).

Second, you have been adopted into the family of God. In adoption, those who are not part of a family are brought in and given all the legal status and rights of a natural born child. Due to God’s love and compassion for you whenever you were in sin (a child of Satan), He provided a way for you to be adopted as His son/daughter (Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:1-7). His plan from the foundation of the world was that the one who would be in Christ would be His adopted child according to His good pleasure (Ephesians 1:3-6).

**2) You are an heir of God.** Although you were once separated from God in your sins, without hope, and excluded from the promises, Jesus has brought you near to God by His blood (Ephesians 2:11-13). Now, as a child of God, you are a full heir of God and co-heir with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:14-17). Take some time to appreciate your standing with God that has all been made possible through His loving sacrifice! You now receive spiritual blessings as you live on this earth that only children of God experience (Ephesians 1:3, 7-10; Philippians 4:4-7). Then, rather than inheriting the wages of your sin eternally in the fires of Hell, you are set to receive a great inheritance in Heaven (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:11-12; 1 Peter 1:3-4). In fact, there is a sense in which the day Jesus comes will be the day your adoption will be complete, as you will go to live with your Father forever (Romans 8:18-25)!

**3) You have a spiritual family.** Being a Christian can separate people from those they love (as others do not accept Christ, Matthew 10:34-39). In fact, there was a significant time when Jesus’s family and those He had grown up around refused to accept Him as the Messiah (Mark 3:20-21; 6:1-6; John 7:5). Yet, Christians who are rejected by the world (and maybe even their own families) for Jesus’s sake have a new family and new relationships in Christ (Mark 3:31-35; Matthew 19:27-30)! The family you now have in Christ is one built upon a spiritual relationship with God and mutual faith in Jesus Christ. Now, you have God as your Father who you can call upon (Romans 8:14-15). Then, you also have Jesus as your Brother who shared in flesh and blood so as to destroy the power of death and who is not ashamed to have you as a brother/sister if you suffer for Him (Hebrews 2:10-18). And, you have other Christians as brothers and sisters who also live to do the will of God and must help and encourage each other throughout life on this earth (Hebrews 3:12-13).

**4) You must imitate God.** Being a child of God is not just a benefit you have received. Instead, there are responsibilities that go along with being in the family of God. For, in order to rightly claim God as your Father and Jesus as your Brother, you must be committed as His son/daughter (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) and be willing to suffer alongside Jesus for the sake of the gospel (Romans 8:16-17). This means that you must be led by the Spirit of God rather than being led by your own spirit that is focused on fleshly things (Romans 8:9-11, 14). To be led by the Spirit of God is to allow the message God's Spirit has revealed in the pages of Scripture to completely guide your life so that your character, decisions, actions, speech, thoughts, practices, and everything your life consists of becomes like God (Ephesians 5:1-11; Philippians 2:12-16). For, as you have been born again, you now have God's seed (His word) abiding in and working through you (1 John 3:8-10). Consequently, you are unable to live for sin (though you may still commit sin on occasion but will repent of and confess them, 1 John 1:8-10).

Being in Christ (a Christian) means that you are a child of God. But, as we have seen, this is not an empty title or merely a way of describing yourself. Instead, this means that you have been reborn and adopted through God's love and your obedience to the truth so as to become an heir of God, be brought into a spiritual family, and reflect the image of God in your life. Now, to please your Father, you must allow His Spirit to continue working in you through His word!

## Thought Questions

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

**Teaching:** What did you learn from this lesson?

**Rebuking:** What are some ways this lesson challenges you to live differently?

**Correcting:** How does this lesson help you make positive changes for Christ?

**Training & Equipping:** How can you apply this lesson to be trained and equipped in God's service?