

100 BIBLE LESSONS

Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 50 – WHO ARE YOU, CHRISTIAN?

A Christian is a person who has become someone he was not before. A Christian, in terms of his deepest identity, is a saint, a born child of God, a divine masterpiece, a child of light, a citizen of heaven. Not only positionally (true in the mind of God but not true in actuality here on earth), but only judicially (a matter of God's moral bookkeeping), but actually.

Becoming a Christian is not just getting something, no matter how wonderful that something may be *It is becoming someone.*

Consider physical conception and birth. Being born isn't simply someone getting something more that one didn't have before. No! *Being born is becoming someone who was not there before.*

When you received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, you simply are not the same person you were before. When you were "in the flesh" (Rom. 8:9), life and meaning for you had to be found right there – and there alone. Your brain, your emotions, your senses, your creativity, your glands, your world environments, your relationships – this was life. It could be found nowhere else.

We now have a new identity. We are clothed with His righteousness. What you have isn't the point. It is who you are that's the issue. "How great is the love which the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are! ..." (1 Jn. 3:1-2). "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:10). Does God create something dirty? Is God's workmanship – His masterpiece – simply adding a little spiritual lump onto sinful clay? "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ Jesus he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The sense of the spiritual was so fundamental to the apostle Paul that he states twice (and infers several more times) that when sin occurs, "it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me" (Rom. 7:17-20). Though he acknowledges personal responsibility, *he denies that sinning is part of his essential, deepest nature.*

I was "by nature a child of wrath." No more. *By nature* I am now someone else: a child of God.

How easy it is to forget that sin is not simply what we do or don't do; sin relates to our independence from or dependence upon life from God! As Jesus said, "Without Me,

you can do nothing.” The old man is the unregenerate man; the new man is the regenerate man created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

Contrary to much popular teaching, regeneration (being born again) is more than having something taken away (sins forgiven) or having something added to you (a new nature with the assistance of the Holy Spirit); it is becoming someone you had never been before. This new identity is not on the flesh level, but the spirit level – one’s deepest self. This miracle is more than a “judicial” act of God. It is an act so real that it is right to say that a Christian’s essential nature is righteous rather than sinful.

A believer’s present state results from the fact that he temporarily exists as a redeemed spiritual being joined with and unredeemed mortality.

“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.”

Yes, Paul was alive. Yet it was no longer his own “flesh” life. It was Jesus. His very life expressed.

AFFIRM YOUR NEW IDENTITY DAILY:

1. **IMMERSE** yourself in your new identity through meditation; grasp the reality and literal truth from God’s Word.
2. **AGREE** that the old identity is dead and valueless.
3. **START EACH DAY** affirming your newness in Christ.
4. **ALLOW TIME** for your mind to be renewed.

Adapted from the teachings of David Needham & Lee Turner. Not to be sold.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the flesh fight against? Gal. 5:17
2. Is the Christian in the flesh or in the spirit? Rom. 8:9
3. What is the Christian to do about the flesh? Rom. 13:14
4. What are we commanded to do about the flesh? Gal. 5:16
5. How can the Christian do this? Gal. 5:18.
6. What is our obligation to the flesh? Rom. 8:12.

7. Who are we according to Ephesians 5:30?
8. Who are we according to Ephesians 1:23?