

Part 2

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Who We Were..... 

Who We Are..... 



Who We Are Becoming..... 

Session 4 Outline

I. Spiritual Anatomy – Part 2

- A. Brief Review Session 3 Concepts**
- B. Identification Truth - Deeper in and Farther Along**
 - 1. Clarification
 - 2. Identification Synonyms
 - 3. Death is Separation
 - 4. Adam's Spiritual History
 - 5. Christ's Spiritual History
 - 6. So is this all... just hypothetical?
- C. Summation**

In Adam






All human beings are conceived and born “in Adam”, that is, **they are positionally “in Adam” and identified with him.**

Each unbeliever has Adam as his/her spiritual head since **Adam is the seminal head of fallen mankind.** This is the fixed position of each unbeliever.


All unbelievers share Adam’s **spiritual history** and the **consequences** of that history, through their **identification with him.**

In Christ

All of those who were conceived and born “in Adam”, **upon believing the gospel of salvation,** are placed into Christ – they are from that time forward “in Christ”, by God’s doing (1 Cor. 1:30).

All believers, being “in Christ” share Christ’s **spiritual history,** and the **consequences** of that history, through their **identification with Him.**



We said that:

- The Old Man is a **positional** person.
- The Old Man is all of who each of us was as an unbeliever, “**in Adam**”.
- The Old Man possesses a Sin Nature.

IN ADAM


OLD MAN =
ALL OF WHO YOU WERE!

SIN NATURE

IN ADAM


OLD MAN =
ALL OF WHO YOU WERE!

SIN NATURE



We said that:

- *The Sin Nature is the collection of attributes and characteristics of how the Old Man is inclined to behave.*
- The Sin Nature is not the same as the Old Man.
- The Sin Nature pertains to the **physical** human body.




We said that:

- The New Man is also a **positional** person.
- The New Man is all of who we are now, as believers “**in Christ**”.
- The New Man possesses a New Nature.
- *The terms “New Man” and “New Nature” are NOT interchangeable terms for the same thing.*

IN CHRIST

NEW MAN =
ALL OF WHO YOU ARE!


NEW NATURE



IN ADAM

OLD MAN =
ALL OF WHO
YOU WERE!

SIN NATURE




IN CHRIST

NEW MAN =
ALL OF WHO
YOU ARE!


SIN NATURE
NEW NATURE

We said that:


- The “believer” continues to have the Sin Nature, (**that once dominated the Old Man**), because it is associated with the physical human body, even though the believer is “**in Christ**”.
- The Sin Nature will be present with the “believer” until he/she receives the new body which is fashioned after Christ’s (1 Jn. 3:2).




What is a Nature?




Nature is not all of what a creature is...




..it is the collection of attributes and characteristics **that cause that creature to behave a certain way.**






We said that:

- Individual Personhood continues from Adam to Christ.
- The part of the believer that changes over time, (conformed, transformed, grows and matures, is sanctified, etc.), is the **Continuing Person**.


From Adam

CONTINUITY OF PERSON

BODY
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS
PERSONAL IDENTITY

To Christ


- It is the **Continuing Person** that Paul, *as a believer*, referred to in Acts 22:3; 20, where he discusses his former life *as an unbeliever*, (“I was...”).

HID WITH CHRIST

In Adam **In Christ**

Dead to God, but alive to sin and death.

Dead to sin, but alive to God, in Christ Jesus.

REVIEW

We also said that:

- Just as there is **no variation** in being “in Adam”, there is also **no changing** the Old Man or the Sin Nature.
- There is also **no changing** the New Man nor the New Nature, since there is **no variation** in being “in Christ”.

Does All This Really Matter?

Consider how you would answer the following questions:

- Am I trying to make the Sin Nature better?
- Is it God’s plan for me to try really, really, hard, to be a good Christian or to be more like Christ?
- Do we need to improve the New Nature?
- Do we need to improve The New Man?
- Do we need to get more ‘in Christ’ than we were yesterday?

IN CHRIST

NEW MAN = ALL OF WHO YOU ARE!

NEW NATURE

MORE “IN CHRIST”?

IN CHRIST

NEW MAN = ALL OF WHO YOU ARE!


NEW NATURE

95%






75%

10%

DOES THAT EVEN MAKE SENSE?




Does All This Really Matter?








Getting these concepts clear is vitally important, otherwise we may find ourselves trying to change things that can never change or never need to change.

Believers often get frustrated, confused, and flustered, wondering what God is doing because they don't have a clear biblical understanding of these concepts.







When we understand biblically...



- 1) How God has made us...
- 2) What God is changing in us...
- 3) How He is producing these changes in us...

...then **our perception** comes in line with **God's perception and His Word**, instead of with that of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.



Some Points of Clarification!

WE ARE NOT SAYING that once we understand these concepts, we will never have any problems!





Some Points of Clarification!

WE ARE SAYING that once we clearly understand these concepts we won't have any false, 'self-imposed' problems springing from:

- an erroneous understanding of God's Word.
- trying to change something that **won't** change.
- struggling to be more "in Christ" or more "like Christ"!



1 Corinthians 9:26

1 Corinthians 9:26 (NASB95)

Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, **as not beating the air;**





Some Points of Clarification!

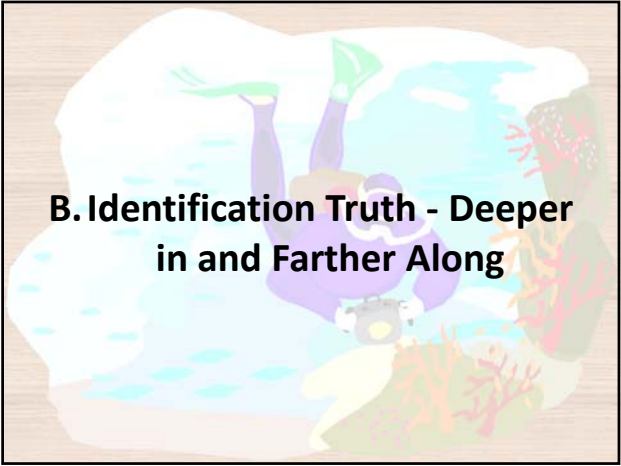
WE ARE SAYING that we must correctly understand and answer the following questions:



- What God is doing?
- What has God already accomplished?
- What is God accomplishing now?
- What specific changes does God intend in the life of the believer?
- **Are we trying to change what never will change and was never intended to change?**

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B. Identification Truth - Deeper in and Farther Along


1. Clarification

- Identification Truth is predominantly related to Church age believers, *(Acts 2 to the Rapture)* being explained most fully by the Apostle Paul *(although it is also evidenced in the writings of John, Peter, and other authors of Scripture as well).*
- Identification truth is revealed and understood entirely by the will and actions of God, *and the blessings of our identification with Christ are accomplished entirely by God’s infinite, eternal and amazing grace.*

Eph. 1:3-4a



“³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places *in Christ*, ⁴ just as He chose us *in Him*...”.



 **2. Identification Synonyms**


The word ‘identification’ is a convenient ‘handle’ for what the Scripture teaches, but the actual words used to convey this biblical truth include:

In	
With	
Together with	
United with (Rom. 6)	
Baptized into (Rom. 6; Col. 3)	

 **3. Death is Separation** 


A key principle in Scripture is that **DEATH MEANS SEPARATION**.

- When Adam was told that he would surely die if he ate of the tree of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17), that meant **separation**.
- When Isaiah said that the sins of the people of Israel had caused a **separation** from God that meant spiritual death (Isa. 59:1-10).
- When Jesus told the Jewish leaders that unless they believed in Him they would ‘die in their sins’, He was pointing out that they would suffer a death that would **separate** them from the very God they claimed to know (John 8:24).
- **Paul taught that death means separation in Eph. 2:1-3, 11-13; 4:18; Col. 1:21.**



3. Death is Separation

Bad News, unless it is Good News!



God used the **'DEATH IS SEPARATION'** principle **graciously and for our benefit**, when we were identified with Christ in His death, His burial and His resurrection:


Rom. 6:1-11	
Rom. 7:1-6	
2 Cor. 5:14-15	
Gal. 2:19- 20	
Col. 2:20	
Col. 3:5, 20	

3. Death is Separation

The Key Biblical Principles Summarized


- Identification joins us...
- Death separates us...
- Our Identification with death joins us to that death; that death separates us.




3. Death is Separation

Primary Examples




Identification with Adam, (being "in Adam"), **joins us** to Adam's **death of separation** from God.


- Each of us was **joined to** the Sin Nature, to the Law, to the World, and to Adam's spiritual history.
- As an unbeliever, identified with Adam, ("in Adam"), each of us was **separated from** Christ, from His righteousness, and from His spiritual history.



4. Adam's Spiritual history?
"I put you in remembrance"


- Adam was created in innocence NOT created righteous - Innocence is simple '*not having sinned*,' a condition which could be lost as was apparent with Adam.
- Adam died (*became separated from God*) because of rebellion in choosing his own way.
- All humanity has inherited a sin nature through Adam.
- All unbelievers are now "in Adam" and share his spiritual history and subsequent consequences, *through identification with him*.






5. Christ's Spiritual history?
"I put you in remembrance"


- The moment we believed we were identified with (*joined to*) Christ in His Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension, and Seating in Heaven.
- Christ is righteous. The moment we believed we were given Christ's righteousness which is unchangeable and eternal. Righteousness is right standing with God.
- The moment we believed we were positionally "in Christ", a New Man with a New Nature.

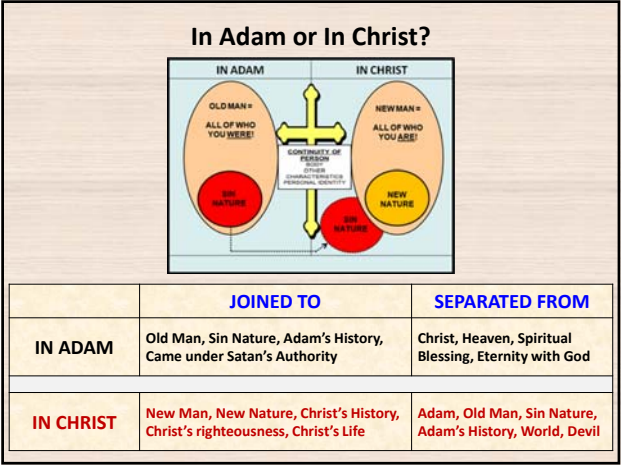




5. Christ's Spiritual history?
"I put you in remembrance"

- Identification with Christ, (being "in Christ"), joins us to Christ. As believers, 'what was true' of our being joined to and identified with Adam has forever changed.
 - Identified with Christ, we were **joined to** Christ, to His righteousness, and to His spiritual history.
 - In our identification with Christ, each one of us was **separated from** the Sin Nature, the Law, the World, and from Adam's spiritual history.









So is this all... just hypothetical?

...our understanding of identification Truth directly affects, at least two areas that touch **directly** upon what God is doing in the life of the believer, 1) **the Sin Nature** and 2) **the Continuing Person...**

..and, Identification Truth provides answers to two important questions:


- **Why do believers sin? and,**
- **How do believers have any hope of not sinning?**

 **So is this all... just hypothetical?**


 1) Identification Truth reveals the primary manner of dealing with the Sin Nature, **which is – our identification with Christ (Romans 6:1-14).**

Romans 6:1–14 (NASB95)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who **died to sin** still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** have been **baptized into His death**? ⁴ Therefore we have been **buried with Him through baptism into death**, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become **united with Him in the likeness of His death**, certainly we shall also be **in the likeness of His resurrection**, ⁶ knowing this, that our **old self was crucified with Him**, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for **he who has died is freed from sin**. ⁸ Now if we have **died with Christ**, we believe that **we shall also live with Him**, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ **Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus**. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.





Dead to the Sin Nature (Rom 6:11) but...





Even so consider (reckon) yourselves to be **dead unto sin** (the sin nature)...


...but **alive unto God** in Christ Jesus (Rom 6:11).


 **So is this all... just hypothetical?**



2) Identification Truth explains that the changes in our “Continuing Person” (ongoing processes - conformed, transformed, growing, maturing, being sanctified, etc.) are **in the direction of Christ**


 **So is this all... just hypothetical?**




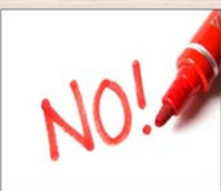
a. Identification Truth explains that the changes in our “Continuing Person” take place as we **walk consistent** with who we have been made to be in our eternal identity (*positioned in Christ*), and those changes are realized because it is **Christ, Who does the living in and through us – by faith (2 Cor. 4:11).**

2 Cor. 4:11

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, **that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**




 **So is this all... just hypothetical?**



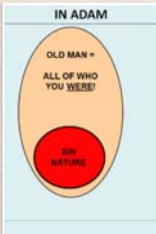
b. Identification Truth explains that these changes take place as we **'walk consistent'** with the One Who we have been **'joined to'** and what we have been **'separated from'**, in Christ.

Summation

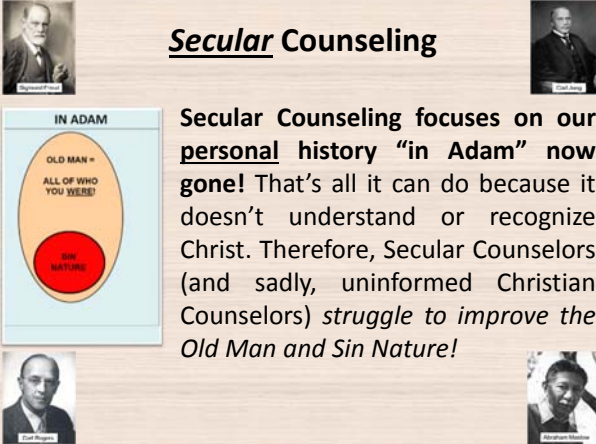


1. God, Himself is carrying out specific processes in each believer to produce actual spiritual change. This spiritual change is taking place **within our Continuing Person.**
2. God's processes are not random or vague, but are directed toward a Person – Christ. His processes are not merely to change our character, but have as their end that we will be like Christ when we see Him as He is.
3. God wants us to see that, **"EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS TO US, IN US, AND AROUND US IS PART OF HIS PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PROCESSES IN US."**
4. **HIS PROCESSES IN US** are conforming us and transforming us into the image of His Son so that when we walk through Heaven's gates, we **WILL BE** like Christ.

Secular Counseling



Secular Counseling focuses on our personal history “in Adam” now gone! That’s all it can do because it doesn’t understand or recognize Christ. Therefore, Secular Counselors (and sadly, uninformed Christian Counselors) *struggle to improve the Old Man and Sin Nature!*



True Biblical Counseling

Biblical Counseling focuses on our personal shared history “in Christ”! Only *informed* Biblical Counselors can share real hope and encouragement because they do not address the Old Man “in Adam”, but deal with the New Man who has a New History “in Christ”.

