

The Truest Thing About Us Because Of Jesus Christ

Today's goal: *There are things that are true about us but there is a truth that is the truest thing about us. We must make sure we live life knowing the deepest, truest thing about us.*

"Hi, my name is...and I'm an alcoholic"

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and **they knew that they were naked.** And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife **hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God** among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and **I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.**"

Places we look for identity:

- *What we do*
- *What we possess*
- *What we have that is outside our control*
- *What I desire*

"Identity is a complex set of layers, for we are many things. Our occupation, ethnic identity, etc., are part of who we are. But we assign different values to these components and thus Christian maturity is a process in which the most fundamental layer of our identity becomes our self-understanding as a new creature in Christ along with all our privileges in Him."

Tim Keller

"Don't let your happiness depend on something you may lose."

C.S. Lewis

Matthew 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**"

Malachi 3:6 **“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.**

Define yourself radically as beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is an illusion.

Brennan Manning

“God created humanity, therefore only God can reveal to us our identity and function.”

Bruce Waltke

Colossians 2:13 **And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,**

Colossians 2:14 **by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.**

Colossians 2:15 **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**

Colossians 2:16 **Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.**

Colossians 2:17 **These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.**

Colossians 2:18 **Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,**

Colossians 2:19 **and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.**

Colossians 2:20 **If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—**

Colossians 2:21 **“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”**

Colossians 2:22 **(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?**

Indicatives [Truths]

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, **now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Jude 24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

Colossians 1:22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, **in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,**

Romans 3:24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Colossians 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, **having forgiven us all our trespasses,**

Romans 6:14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Romans 8:4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

Galatians 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

“Don’t let your happiness depend on something you may lose.”

C.S. Lewis

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Colossians 2:23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, **but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.**

“Religion says, “I obey; therefore, I am accepted by God.” Gospels says, “I am accepted by God through Christ; therefore , I obey.”

Tim Keller

“I’ve tried to get others to perform, regardless of their motivation. I’ve focused a lot on their work and not enough on their identity...I was trying to squeeze Christ-like actions out of people who hadn’t been transformed by Christ... When we trust in Christ, and take hold of that identity, our actions begin to happen naturally- or supernaturally.”

Francis Chan

Colossians 3:1 **If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

Colossians 3:2 **Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.**

Colossians 3:3 **For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

Colossians 3:4 **When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

Colossians 3:5 **Put to death therefore** what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

“So often in our preaching our indicatives [truths] are not strong enough, great enough, holy enough, or gracious enough to sustain the power of the imperatives [commands]. And so our teaching on holiness becomes a whip or a rod to beat our people’s back because we’ve looked at the New Testament and that’s all we ourselves have seen. We’ve seen our own failure and we’ve seen the imperatives to holiness and we’ve lost sight of the great indicatives of the Gospel that sustain those imperatives.”

Sinclair Ferguson

Luke 10:38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. **And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.**

Luke 10:39 **And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching.**

Luke 10:40 But **Martha was distracted with much serving**. And she went up to him and said, **“Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.”**

Mark 4:38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, **“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”**

Luke 10:41 But the Lord answered her, **“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things,**

Luke 10:42 **but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”**

John 12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where **Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.**

John 12:2 So they gave a dinner for him there. **Martha served**, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

John 12:3 **Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.**

John 12:4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said,

John 12:5 **“Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”**

John 12:6 He said this, **not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.**

John 12:7 Jesus said, **“Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.**