



Lecture 5

The Believer's Worth in Christ

IDENTITY IN CHRIST IS NOT JUST ACQUIRED INDIVIDUALLY, BUT IS COMPLETED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

The believer's worth in Christ is connected with true spirituality. In the world, "self-worth" is related to pride, ego, self-reliance, simply the flesh. Our worth in Christ is 100% spiritual; it is the knowledge that every believer is a part of the Body of Christ, the universal Church, represented by different people and assemblies around the world.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (Wuest translation)

"And let us constantly be giving careful attention to one another for the purpose of stimulating one another to divine and self-sacrificial love and good works, not letting down on the assembling of ourselves together, even as the custom of certain is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you are seeing the Day draw near".

As believers and followers of Jesus Christ our Lord, our spiritual well-being depends on our connection with Christ through His body. In 1 Corinthians 12, the word *body* appears 18 times. Paul's conclusion in this chapter is that we must be connected to each other in order to be what God wants us to be. The believer is to experience a dual "identification". First we identify with Christ as individuals; second, we identify as a vital part of the Body of Christ, His Bride, and His Church. An independent, lonely soldier is not God's will or design. In fact, this is what the enemy desires; Satan can easily attack a believer who is separated from the Family of God and living as a lonely soldier who hasn't joined the army.

1 Corinthians 12:26-31 (Wuest translation)

"And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, or one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. And as for you, you are Christ's body and members individually. And God indeed placed some for His own use in the Church, first apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then workers of miracles; then gifts of healing; also those whose ministry it is to help others; and administrators; and different languages. Not all are apostles, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? Not all are teachers, are they? Not all are workers of miracles, are they? Not all have gifts of healing, do they? Not all speak in languages, do they? Not all interpret, do they? But be constantly zealous after the greater spiritual gifts. And yet I point out a super-excellent way."

Some spiritual gifts are designed for the assembly; all the various gifts form a complete arsenal of Holy-Spirit power.

God has imparted different spiritual gifts to the Church (His Body). Why? For the edification of believers and ultimately, the Church. We find our God-given role in the Body by being a part of it. We need to be connected in order to both give and receive.

Colossians 2:1-3 (Wuest translation)

In view of the fact, therefore, that you were raised with Christ, the things above be constantly seeking, where Christ is, on the right hand of God, seated. The things above be constantly setting your mind upon, not the things on the earth; for you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.

When we, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, understand that our lives have been hidden with Christ in God and that God is in us by His Holy Spirit, we can embrace our new life with **full confidence** and not only “feel worthy” but **know** our worth in Christ.

Jesus gave us everything at the Cross. To enter the presence of a holy God, we must be hidden in the righteousness of Christ. To be "in Christ" means that God no longer sees our imperfections; He sees the righteousness of His own Son.

Hebrews 8:12(Wuest translation)

“because I will be merciful in the case of their unrighteousness, and their sins I will in no wise remember anymore”.

When we are in Christ, we do not actually need “self-worth” because we now possess the worth of Jesus Himself. We are addressing **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF US BEING IN CHRIST**. Our identity in Christ implies acknowledging us being a part of the Body. Being disconnected from the Body is not God’s plan. How can we take care of one another if we are not in contact? This principle relates to the spiritual and also to the natural.

For three years, Jesus related to his disciples in the natural while teaching spiritual principles and His Word. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, the disciples were indwelt by the Holy Spirit and became a part of Christ’s Body. Ever since, every believer in Christ is added to the Body of Christ.

Christ has established the Church on earth, because it is His family i.e. heaven on earth, He is the Head and the believers are His Body. We are worthy because we are God’s children, His family.

This acknowledgement brings healing to our souls and bodies, because the Body of Christ is a new realm, spiritual, supernatural. Jesus is totally in control of us (His Body). Even while acknowledging our imperfections and shortcomings in the flesh, Jesus is still in control and His Holy Spirit is keeping and sanctifying us day by day.

From God’s perspective, we are perfect, like Jesus. When we look at ourselves the way God looks at us, we are translated from the natural realm into the spiritual.

We have a new nature, we have a new relationship, we are the children of God and we have a new Father, our Heavenly Father. We stand complete in His completeness, and we are filled with His fullness. We are members of His very Body.

We are the sons and daughters of God Almighty. **We have been recreated by Him, through His own Word, and we stand in His completeness. Our worthiness is entirely related to Jesus, who loves every believer the same, so He wants us also to consider our brothers and sisters in the Body.**

Life-Gate exists today, because my wife and I started this ministry submitting ourselves to the Body of Christ, the Church. We found salvation by God-given faith, but much more, we found our spiritual role, identity and equipment in the Church.

If we had been isolated believers with no connection to the Body, we would never have gotten to where we are today. Our identity in Christ is linked with the purpose of serving in the Body as an army, the army of God.

God has chosen His Family, and His plan is for us (as brothers and sisters) to love, help, protect, pray, give, sacrifice and encourage one another... TO BE IMITATORS OF CHRIST.