

**October 28, 2018**  
**“Identify With Me”**  
**Galatians 2:20**

What does it mean to Identify with Jesus? I don't mean to just agree with Him or not reject Him. I mean to personally *identify* with Him. Do you know what that is like? In order to do this, there must be a legit connection made. And when that connection of identity is made with Jesus, it is also made with all others who have identified with Him – His Church. Today, Jesus, by His Holy Spirit calls out to us, saying “Identify With Me.”

**Galatians 2:20** gives the answer of what it really means to identify with Jesus.

*When You Identify with Jesus...*

**I. The Old You “Dies”**

That sounds like a very morbid thought. But it's actually a very, very good thing. You don't have to teach a person to lie and deceive. If we are all born in innocence, you'd have to wonder why selfishness and deceit come so natural to us all. Luke Bryan's popular country song says, “I Believe Most People Are Good.” And the song is nice. It's catchy. It has warm fuzzies. The song encourages us to see the good side of people, no matter who they are. Luke Bryan says, *our world ain't half as bad as it looks, I believe most people are good*. I think I know what he means – that lots of people work hard. Lots of people try their best. Lots of people mind their manners. Really only a few are violent, harmful, evil people. That's what the song tries to say.

Those thoughts don't originate from the Bible, but more from wishful thinking. The reality from Scripture is that actually we're much worse than we look. The Bible doesn't teach that deep down inside that we are good. It actually teaches that deep down inside, we are totally depraved, corrupt, selfish, deceitful, blinded to the truth and lost in our sins. That is a condition we all inherited at birth.

This is what the Bible describes as the “Old Man.” It was this sin nature that we inherited from Adam and Eve as sin was passed down to us all.

But Jesus is the only one who is actually and totally good. He was exempt/protected from that sin nature at His conception and (virgin) birth, He died as a sacrifice – in place of the sins of the world. And when a person personally trusts in that sacrifice by faith, that old man inside – that depraved, corrupt, selfish old you with that sin nature dies. That’s why Paul looks back and says **“I am crucified with Christ.”** Crucifixion is very literal and physical. It wasn’t something that you could do to yourself – it had to be done to you. And in the end, death was a certainty. It was open and on display.

The Bible says, this is what has happened to you Spiritually when you get saved through faith in Jesus – that old you has been put to death. ***It is the only way someone can identify with Jesus – for that old self to be abandoned – to die.***  
*Perfect verb tense in Gal 2:20*

### **Romans 6:5-6**

For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified (aorist tense) with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

The result is that you have been set free from the shackles of sin. You’re no longer enslaved to it!

*When you identify with Jesus,*

#### **II. A New You Is Born**

A legit substitution is made... out with the old and in with the new.

After His crucifixion, Jesus did not remain in physical death. He rose again with New Life. And it is that Resurrection power that brings life to you where there was once death.

**Ephesians 2:1-2a** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...

It is for that reason the Jesus Himself says **John 3:3** Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.

This indicates a complete and total starting over. I’ve heard lots of people say, “I’ve always believed in God.” That’s cool. But you haven’t always been born

again. There comes a point where believing in God needs to become personal and real... from facts in your mind to a living reality in your life. You actually need to personally identify with Him by faith. That is when eternal life begins.

This is everlasting life that begins in this earthly life and continues on into our heavenly life.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

How is this life even possible? What is its source? How does it keep going?

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*When you identify with Jesus*

### III. **Jesus Lives In You**

He actually dwells in you. That's why so many use the phrase, "I asked Jesus into my heart."

It is no longer you who lives, but Christ Jesus who lives in You.

It is not our own good works or religious activity that brings us His life! **Galatians 2:16** we know that a person is not justified by works of the law (by being a "good person") but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Jesus Christ, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. The law and religion only brings emptiness and death. But a relationship with Jesus brings His actual life into our existence and changes a person forever.

*Christ Lives in Me...*

As a believer,

Even though He has ascended into heaven and is at the right hand of the Father, *He lives In You.*

Even though He has gone to prepare a place for us, *He lives In You.*

Even though He is planning to come back to Rapture His Church to Heaven, *He lives In You.*

Even though He will later Return to set up His literal 1,000 year reign on Earth, *He lives in You.*

Even though He will melt the earth like wax and replace it with a new heaven and a new earth, *He lives in You Now.*

We might not always act like it, because the best of us fail and fall into sin. But He abides in us. He lives in us. **I Corinthians 6:19-20** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price (Jesus' death). So glorify God in your body.

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#### **IV. Your Life Is Lived For Jesus**

This is the purpose of life. To be a living servant of Jesus.

He loved us and gave Himself for us.

It is our response to now love Him and give ourselves for Him.

That is our mission. (connect grow serve)

Baptism (immersion) pictures this new life in Him.

It has never and will never wash sins away. There is no such thing as Holy Water. The only Holy Water will exist in heaven and it will flow from the actual throne of God as a river of life (Rev 22:1). It will bless those who are obviously already saved.

Baptism – physically depicts death and burial (since you have died with Him). It physically depicts resurrection and new life. This step of obedience demonstrates externally what Jesus has done internally. It shows outwardly your identity with Jesus.

When a person is saved, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of heaven. When a person is baptized and publicly identifies with Jesus, there is rejoicing in the church.

It is an expected step of discipleship (which is our journey of living for Jesus).

### **Matthew 28:19-20**