

## Who Am I?

Air Dates: March 6-10, 2023

### Day One

"Who am I?" This is a question that has been asked and answered a hundred different ways. But as Christians we need to know who we are in Christ. What is our identity as born-from-above believers? I don't think too many of us really grasp the smallest inkling of who we are in Christ. Maybe it hasn't been taught as it should be or somehow, we misunderstand what it means. The facts are, we need to have that identity grounded in our hearts and minds.

The Bible uses different analogies and types to teach us about who we are in Christ. I want to briefly tell you about three, all beginning with B:

1. We are called the **BUILDING** of God

"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

A building's purpose is to provide housing, and our bodies are referred to as the temple of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that he would abide in us (John 15:4). John wrote "This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit" (1 John 4:13).

When you realize that your body houses the Holy Spirit of the Living God, you know that you have power; you know that you're never alone; you know that your life must be kept pure and clean because the blessed Holy Spirit is constantly abiding in you.

I used to do lots of business training, primarily teaching customer service and communications skills. In reality, it was teaching people to treat others the way they would like to be treated. It's the biblical principle we call "The Golden Rule," and it's the best policy any company could have to establish good customer service.

But I often felt a little guilty teaching people who were in many cases non-believers to perform on their job with caring and compassion for others without being able to tell them where the power to do that comes from. I would not have that kind of heart for others if it weren't for the Holy Spirit who dwells within me. Because I am the **BUILDING** of God, I have power to do and be what would be impossible otherwise. And the same is true for you, of course, if you are a Christ-follower.

Remember, as you go out into your work world, that you are a building of God—a house for God's Spirit to abide in. It will make a difference in how you feel about yourself and how you respond to your circumstances.

### Day Two

Who we are in Christ is essential so that we will have an identity grounded in God's truth. Without a good knowledge of your standing and relationship to God through Jesus, you'll have problems with how you think about yourself. Knowing your identity as a believer is extremely important.

We are referred to as a BUILDING of God, providing housing for God's Holy Spirit. Get a vision of yourself as a building, providing a permanent dwelling place for the Spirit of Christ who lives in your building. If you'll do that, it will have an impact on how you see yourself and understand who you are.

2. We are also referred to as the **BODY** of Christ.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).

That 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians goes into much detail about how we are each members of the body, and the body is meant to work together in unity. Each part of the body needs the other part, and no part is more important than another. Christ is the head, and we are the body.

Each part of our bodies has a special and critical part to play in how we function. So, when you realize that you are part of the body of Christ, then you begin to understand how you are to function within the body; how important your gifts are. This gives you the assurance that God created you for a specific purpose in the body and you better understand your unique gifting.

Each person brings their unique function to the body of believers, and understanding that, you can be content with who you are. You understand the part you play and you don't have to envy other people or wish you were like somebody else.

If you don't understand this relationship you have as part of the body, then you're missing out on an essential element of your identity in Christ. Carry this with you: If you have been born again through faith in Jesus Christ, then you are an essential and definite part of the BODY of Christ; you're special; you're unique. Make sure you're functioning well in your specialty.

### Day Three

Who am I? As believers we must know who we are as Christ-followers. Our identity needs to be firmly grounded in what the Bible tells us about how God sees us when we belong to him. Not for the purpose of self-focus, but in order to be equipped to worship and serve our Lord effectively.

When you become a believer and follower of Jesus Christ, we have seen already that you become the Building of God; a residence for the Holy Spirit, making your body his temple. Then we saw that all believers are part of the Body of Christ, and a body has functional parts that work together and each part is necessary.

3. And then we are called the **BRIDE** of Christ.

“One of the seven angels . . . came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb’” (Revelation 21:9).

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7).

In Ephesians 5 Paul talks about the marriage relationship, how a husband should treat his wife, even as his own body, and how the two of them become one flesh. Then he adds “This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:32).

It's good to know that we are the BUILDING of God and the BODY of Christ, but that wasn't enough. God wanted us to know how much he loves us, how dear we are to him, how much he treasures us. And so, he has made us the betrothed BRIDE of Jesus Christ.

This is who we are in Jesus—because of Jesus. We are his bride-to-be. I'm certain God used this analogy because he wanted us to know how much he loves us, how tender and close is our relationship to him.

Dear friends, can we not rejoice in who we are? Isn't that identity more important than any earthly classifications or identifications? Remember as you go out into your world, if you know Jesus, you are the beloved betrothed Bride of Christ. Rejoice!

## Day Four

As a believer, what is my identity? The Bible says that we are the Building of God, the Body of Christ, and the Bride of Christ.

In Genesis 24 we see a beautiful love story which is a marvelous type of God's love for us, his bride. Abraham was getting old and he wanted to find a wife for his beloved son, Isaac. So, he sent his chief servant to his own country to find a wife for Isaac.

The servant took with him all kinds of good things from his master for the bride when he found her. He prayed for God to show him who that bride should be, and Rebekah came to the well where the servant was resting, offered to water his camels, and he knew she was God's chosen bride for Isaac.

He gave her jewels of gold and silver and articles of clothing—costly gifts. And when asked if she would return to marry Isaac, she answered simply, "I will go."

I encourage you to read the entire story in Genesis 24 and see the beautiful type of God's love for us. He sends the Holy Spirit to woo us, he offers us great treasures, and he asks us to be his betrothed bride. If and when we say "I will," we are betrothed.

And just as Rebekah was betrothed to one she had not yet seen, so are we. Peter wrote "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy..." (1 Peter 1:8).

Does that describe the way you feel? Are you filled with glorious joy at knowing you are betrothed to one you have not yet seen? If not, it might be because you either haven't understood your relationship to Jesus as his betrothed bride, or you haven't focused your mind on it.

I hope that you'll be very conscious that you are the bride-to-be. If you carry that knowledge with you, you're going to see yourself differently, you'll see others differently, and your circumstances won't have such control over you. There's a great wedding to anticipate, and like all brides, we should be focused on that event.

## Day Five

We are the Building of God, a temple for the Holy Spirit; we are the Body of Christ, functioning with unique gifts and abilities; and we are the betrothed Bride of Christ, loved by him intimately and personally. Think what it means to be a bride looking forward to a wedding.

- **It means excitement.** Every betrothed bride I've ever met was excited. Her wedding is on her mind constantly. She counts the days and hours.

As the Bride of Christ, should we not, too, be excited about being betrothed to Jesus? I know we're in this world and it has more than its share of troubles for all of us. But think about what the future holds for us. A wedding! Remember who you are—the betrothed Bride of Christ.

- **It means preparation.** No one ever had a wedding without lots of preparation. It may be tiring at times, but it is a work of love.

We're in that preparation stage now, as the betrothed Bride of Christ. You remember the story of Rebekah, being taken back on that long journey to meet her beloved bridegroom, Isaac, whom she had never seen. We're on that journey now, waiting for the day when we'll see our bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

I'm sure for Rebekah it wasn't always a pleasant trip. I'm sure she wondered sometimes if they'd ever get there. I'm sure at times she felt discouraged and maybe even fearful. But she had said "I will" be married to Isaac, and she endured the long journey.

But when she saw him, that long trip was forgotten. And so it will be with us. As the song so perfectly puts it, "It will be worth it all when we see Jesus."

- **It means receiving.** Betrothed brides get lots of gifts.

Just as the servant took costly gifts to Rebekah, so our beloved has given us incredibly costly and beautiful gifts. His love, his grace, his peace which passes all understanding. He promises he will never leave us or forsake us, and nothing can separate us from his love. No other bridegroom can make that promise.

I hope you'll remember who you are as you go to your everyday worlds. People around you may not recognize that you're wearing wedding garments, but don't let this world rob you of the joy of being a betrothed bride. Isaiah 62:5 says, "As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you."