

“Identity Crisis”

By Susan Brandt

Hooray! You are on your way for the 2018-19 school year! The classroom has been meticulously prepared, the bulletin boards are up, the curriculum has been studied, and the lesson plans are complete! Whether you are a veteran teacher or a first-year teacher, you feel the same excitement mixed with a little anxiety all rolled up in one! But this is what you have schooled for, trained for, and are now ready to do! You are a teacher! This is what you were made to do! This is your identity!!

Or is it?

Do You Have an Identity Crisis!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAiI Vbt5V8>

Although it is true that God creates us-with special gifts and abilities to further His Kingdom, these gifts and abilities are *not* our identity. Far from it! As Christians, we receive a new identity, a better and perfect identity, when we were baptized into faith and the Holy Spirit began His work in us. As Christian, we do not lose our identity as a teacher, a mechanic, a doctor, or whatever it is we do. Instead, we become our *identity* in Christ Jesus. When we really understand who we are in Christ, it changes the way we think and live.

So, what does it mean to have our identity in Christ?

1. We get new name: “Child of God!”

John 1:12 NIV

“Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, HE gave the right to become Children of God.”

1 John 3:1 NIV

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

2. We are redeemed!

Galatians 3:13 NIV

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us”

3. We become transformed into a new creation!

2 Corinthians 5:17

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

4. We become righteous in God's eyes.

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

5. We become rich in His grace and mercy.

2 Corinthians 8:9

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

6. We inherit an eternal home called- Heaven!!

Colossians 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

As Christians, we don't have an "identity crisis", we have our "identity in the cross". Because of the great love our Father lavished on us through Jesus, we can live our lives joyfully, proclaiming what He has done for us, and say in all confidence...

"I have my identity in the one who redeemed me and calls me by name.

I am His!

I am a Child of the King!"

