*Identity in Christ*July 30, 2023
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Who Are You?

You are God's Child

To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12, New Living Translation)

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

(Ephesians 1:5, NLT)

We're called children of God! That's who we really are.

(1 John 3:1, The Message)

[You] are God's masterpiece.

(Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

WHAT DOES BEING A CHILD OF GOD MEAN TO ME?

1. You have <u>forgiveness</u> for your past.

I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.

(Hebrews 8:12, NLT)

2. You have a new life mission: To <u>influence</u> as many people as possible to trust Christ.

My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

(Acts 20:24, NLT)

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults. (Ephesians 4:1, NLT)

3. You have new power.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

(Philippians 4:13, New King James Version)

God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.
(Philippians 2:13, NLT)

4. You have a new <u>example</u> to follow.

From the very beginning God decided that those who came to him should become like his Son. (Romans 8:29, The Living Bible)

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE LIKE JESUS?

1. You don't <u>leave</u> your loved ones.

I will not leave you.

(John 14:18, New International Version)

2. You keep your promises.

Every promise of the LORD your God has come true. Not a single one has failed!

(Joshua 23:14, NLT)

3. You are forgiving.

Jesus said, 'I do not condemn you either. Go on your way and from now on sin no more.'
(John 8:11, Amplified Bible)

4. You are generous.

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

(2 Corinthians 8:9, NLT)

HOW TO FINISH WELL

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8, NLT)

1. Pray two prayers every day:

- The Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
- The Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)

2. Memorize one or more verses per week.

3. Guard your mind.

I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar.

(Psalm 101:3, NLT)

4. Get a friend.

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

(Ecclesiastes 4:12, NLT)