

IDENTIFY!

What it means to be a Christian

HOW DO WE IDENTIFY - A CHURCH THAT WANTS TO SEE PEOPLE SAVED, HEALED, SET FREE, DISCIPLED, EQUIPPED, EMPOWERED AND SERVING

Introduction:

Ephesians 2:8-9 – ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- *We have “been” saved (past)*

1 Corinthians 1:18 ¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- *We are being saved (present)*

1 Corinthians 3:15 – ¹⁵If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- *We will “be” saved (future)*

“SAVED” is “SOZO” = means to be made whole or perfect

Here is a question: *Are you being saved, will you be saved, or have you been saved?*
The answer to this question is YES.

- We are triune beings – body, soul and spirit
- Our bodies *will be saved*. Right now we are in a decaying body. Even if you get healed of something, you are still dying.
- Our souls *are being saved*. It’s being renewed into the mind of Christ.
- Our spirits *have been saved*. If you have accepted the atoning work of Jesus by faith...

What is *SALVATION*?

1. It’s A GIFT - **Romans 11:6** - ⁶And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

- a. *Its not a goal to achieve, it’s a gift to receive*

b. If it's a gift you can't pay for it

2. It's ETERNAL LIFE - Romans 6:23 - ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- a. We have earned something: *the wages of sin is death*
- b. How long is it?
- c. When does it start? It's already begun! You were born an eternal being.

3. It's FORGIVENESS - Acts 13:38-39 - ³⁸Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; ³⁹and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

- a. **Jeremiah 31:34** - ³⁴No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
 - o God will forgive your iniquity
- b. **Psalm 103:12** - ²As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- c. Forgiveness is "complete release" from our sin and its penalty

4. It's JUSTIFICATION - Romans 3:24 - ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

- a. It's "freely"
- b. Root is "Just" where we get justice
 - i. It means it is justice for me to go to heaven!
 - ii. Since Jesus paid the full price
- c. He won't punish two people for the same crime

5. It's RIGHTEOUSNESS - Romans 4:3 - ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

- a. It was "accounted"
- b. Righteous vs. righteousness
 - i. One is doing the right thing
 - ii. The other is right standing
- c. Our account was filled with sin; Jesus' account was filled with righteousness.
 - i. God took our sin and put it Jesus' account
 - ii. When I believed God took all Jesus' righteousness and put it my account

6. It's REDEMPTION - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- a. To be bought back
- b. We originally belonged to God
- c. Satan took us at the fall
- d. God bought us back with the death of Christ

7. It's TOTAL COMMITMENT

a. **Matthew 7:21-23** - ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

b. **Luke 6:46** - ⁴⁶ "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

- c. What's the catch
- d. Lots of people have fire insurance, but He is not the Lord of your life.
- e. Many will say to me "Lord, Lord..."
 - i. HE said MANY
 - ii. Where are these people - In church
 - iii. Where else do you prophesy and cast out demons
- f. If many people who are actively engaged in ministry are not saved, how many people just sitting in church is not going to make it?
- g. How do you know you are saved?
 - i. He is the Lord of your life
 - ii. Are you the boss or is He?
- h. If you are in charge, you are going to go to hell!
 - i. It takes total commitment to receive this free gift.
- j. Many of you say, "Well all I have to do is believe..."
 - i. **James 2:19 - Satan believes and trembles**