

FREEDOM DEVOTIONAL

ATTACK ON IDENTITY

AUTHOR

ZAC BAYLESS, Lead Pastor

ATTACK ON IDENTITY

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

DAY 1

This week, let's focus on the powerful truth of who we are in Christ. If you're like me, you know the struggle of constant attacks on your identity—it's one of the enemy's most used tactics because your identity in Christ is one of the most profound gifts you have been given. Christ's work on the cross has forever changed you, but it's easy to forget that your old self is gone, crucified with Him. Together, let's explore what it looks like to stand firm in your new identity in Christ.

PAUSE

Take a moment to pray:

God, I enter this time of prayer to pause, to breathe deeply and focus on You. As I inhale, I refocus on Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release my anxieties, worries, and fears for this day.

Lord, I remind myself of the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:17. Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old me is gone, and today, I am made new in You. Jesus, show me who You created me to be. Help me to release my old self and to step into my true identity in You.

REFLECT

When you give your life to Jesus, a powerful exchange takes place: He offers you a new identity and invites you to let go of the person you once knew. Just as our memory verse this week says, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. You are no longer defined by the lies you once believed about yourself, nor by past mistakes or failures. Too often, we cling to old identities based on what we've done or where we've been. Today, let's hold tightly to the truth of who God says we are.

Because Christ is your Redeemer, you are a new creation, free to walk forward in that reality. Colossians 2:6-7 speaks to this transformation:

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

ASK

Take a moment to release who you once were and embrace who you are in Christ. Ask God to reveal to you any lingering doubts or struggles as you step forward in this new identity.

- *Have I truly surrendered my old understanding of who I am to God?*
- *Lord, You say I am already made new in You. Where am I struggling to release my old identity and past to You?*
- *Holy Spirit, help me see what I'm missing out on by clinging to my old identity.*

YIELD

Lord, I admit that I have hesitated to fully release my old self. I struggle to see myself as You see me. But today, help me to know deeply in my soul that You have already made me new. I don't have to hold on to past mistakes, failures, or shortcomings.

Thank You, Jesus, for the transforming work You've done in me and for Your promise to continue this work until it is complete. I choose today to believe in my new identity and to release my old self to You. I surrender my past and my insecurities into Your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BONUS: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Keep a “New Creation” Journal

Each day this week, jot down a few ways you see God working in your life that reflect your new identity in Christ. These might be small shifts in how you think, act, or relate to others. As you see evidence of your growth, thank God for His power at work in your life.

ATTACK ON IDENTITY

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

DAY 2

Today, we're focusing on the identity Christ has given us. Because it's such a powerful gift and exchange, our identity is often under attack. It's easy to forget that our old self is dead and gone, but through Christ's work on the cross, we've been given a new identity. Let's explore how we can stand firm in who we are in Him.

PAUSE

Take a moment to pray:

God, I pause to be still in Your presence. I breathe deeply, inhaling Your truth and letting it fill my mind, will, and emotions. As I slowly inhale, I focus on Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that have already crept in today.

Today, I remind myself of 2 Corinthians 5:17. Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old me is gone, and today I am made new in You, Jesus. Lord, reveal to me who You have created me to be. Help me let go of my old self and step fully into who I am in You.

REFLECT

Look around at the world, and you'll see countless companies and products promising to shape us into a better version of ourselves. The message is: "If you use our product or service, your life will be transformed."

While many things can temporarily enhance our image in the eyes of others, the truth is that we were already crafted perfectly by the hands of our Creator. Genesis 1:27 reminds us:

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

This verse poetically celebrates God's incredible work in creating humankind. From the very beginning, God made us in His image and placed both men and women equally at the pinnacle of His creation. No other part of creation is offered a way back to its original identity. That offer was given to us through Jesus.

Your value to God is beyond comprehension. He's given you His image—His identity—so there's no need to strive today. He's pleased with His creation. You don't have to prove your worth or try to be something else. Just rest in who He made you to be.

ASK

- *God, will You help me find rest today in who You've created me to be?*
- *Where am I striving to create myself in a different image than the one You've given me?*
- *God, what do You want me to hear about myself today?*

YIELD

Lord, thank You for thinking of me in such detail and creating me in Your very own image. I know I've done nothing to earn that gift, but You've given it freely. Thank You that I don't have to work for a place in Your creation. Today, I choose to believe that I am made fully in Your image and that You are pleased with who You created me to be. Amen.

ATTACK ON IDENTITY

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

DAY 3

Today, we're focusing on the identity Christ has given us. Because it's such a powerful gift and exchange, our identity is constantly under attack. It's easy to forget that our old self is dead and gone, but through Christ's work on the cross, we've been given a new identity. Let's discover together how we can stand firm in this truth.

PAUSE

Take a moment to pray:

God, I pause to be still in Your presence. I breathe deeply, inhaling Your truth and letting it fill my mind, will, and emotions. As I slowly inhale, I focus on Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that have already crept in today.

Today, I remind myself of 2 Corinthians 5:17. Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old me is gone, and today I am made new in You, Jesus. Lord, show me the person You created me to be. Help me cast off my old self and step into my true identity in You.

REFLECT

Mark 8:35 says,

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

With our secure identity in Christ comes a new lifestyle—a life marked by freedom and grace, where we no longer have to strive to save ourselves. When we allow our identity to be fully rooted in Christ, He promises an eternal rescue, because we have received His freedom.

In the Garden of Eden, humanity chose its own way, putting self at the center instead of God. That decision led to death, decay, and brokenness. But Jesus offers us a different way. He calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. The essence of our existence should be Christ—not our own desires, ambitions, or efforts.

This is where our true identity begins. By surrendering to Him, we find a life that is not defined by our striving but by His grace and goodness. It’s here that we receive the fullness of our identity, satisfied only in the person of Jesus Christ.

ASK

- *God, what in my life do I need to let go of to receive all that You have for me today?*
- *Where am I trying to be my own rescuer?*

YIELD

Lord, I confess that far too often I've tried to be my own rescuer. In doing so, I've overlooked the identity You've given me in You. Today, I surrender myself back to You and acknowledge that I am only truly found, fulfilled, and secure when I abide in You. I want to deny myself, pick up my cross, and follow the path You have for me. Let my life bring glory to You, God. Amen.

ATTACK ON IDENTITY

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

DAY 4

Today, we're focusing on the identity Christ has given us. Because it's such a powerful gift and exchange, our identity is often under attack. It's easy to forget that our old self is dead and gone, but through Christ's work on the cross, we've been given a new identity. Let's discover together how we can stand firm in this truth.

PAUSE

Take a moment to pray:

God, I pause to be still in Your presence. I breathe deeply, inhaling Your truth and letting it fill my mind, will, and emotions. As I slowly inhale, I focus on Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that have already crept in today.

Today, I remind myself of 2 Corinthians 5:17. Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old me is gone, and today I am made new in You, Jesus. Lord, show me the person You created me to be. Help me cast off my old self and step into my true identity in You.

REFLECT

We were all born into our natural families. For some of us, we may feel like we hit the jackpot; for others, it might seem like we didn't get a very good start at all. Either way, our identity often begins to take shape based on the circumstances we were born into—our family name, socioeconomic status, or the roles and expectations we're given. We begin to measure our worth and identity based on where we rank among our peers and what we achieve.

But when we choose to follow Jesus, everything changes. We become sons and daughters of God, and our identity is completely redefined.

Before Christ, we were considered enemies and slaves of God, in complete rebellion against Him because we were only known by our earthly identity. Galatians 4:4-7 tells us:

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

Friend, this is who you are! You are a son or daughter of God, and as His child, there's a great inheritance stored up for you. It's eternal life with Christ! The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of that inheritance. It's the seal that proves you belong to Jesus. Your identity is no longer determined by your family background, your job, or what you accomplish. Your identity is secure because of who created you in His image. You belong to the family of God.

ASK

- *God, where am I holding onto an identity based on my job or accomplishments?*
- *What emotions do I feel when I think about being claimed by You as Your very own?*
- *Have I truly received Your identity as a son or daughter?*

YIELD

Lord, You are God over all creation. You made the heavens and the earth, and You created me in Your image. Now You call me Your own. I receive the truth that I am Your son/daughter. Help me to walk boldly and confidently in the identity You have given me. Amen.

BONUS: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Embracing Your Identity as God's Child

Meditate on Your Adoption:

Take time today to remind yourself that you are a beloved son or daughter of God. Write down the phrase “I am a child of God” and place it somewhere visible (like your mirror or desk) as a daily reminder.

Reject Lies About Your Identity:

Whenever negative thoughts or insecurities arise, pause and remind yourself of who you are in Christ. Speak out loud, “I am no longer a slave; I am a child of God!”

Pray as a Child Would:

Talk to God as your loving Father today. Approach Him with childlike honesty and faith, sharing your needs, desires, and gratitude.

ATTACK ON IDENTITY

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

DAY 5

Today, we're focusing on the identity Christ has given us. Our identity is one of the most powerful gifts and exchanges we receive in Christ, and that's why it's constantly under attack. Sometimes it's a struggle to remember that our old self is dead and gone because of the work Jesus did for us on the cross. But we are made new! Let's learn together how we can stand firm in this new identity in Christ.

PAUSE

Take a moment to pray:

God, I pause to be still in Your presence. I breathe deeply, inhaling Your truth and letting it fill my mind, will, and emotions. As I slowly inhale, I focus on Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that have already crept in today.

I remind myself of 2 Corinthians 5:17: Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old me is gone, and today I am made new in You, Jesus. Lord, reveal to me who You have created me to be. Help me throw off my old self and fully step into who I am in You.

REFLECT

Have you ever just wanted people to notice what you do? Whether it's your achievements, skills, or just a little acknowledgment from your boss, friends, or spouse?

Even as followers of Jesus, we're no strangers to wanting to be seen and appreciated. It's natural to desire affirmation, but too often we end up depending on it to determine our worth and identity.

If we need people's approval to feel valued, we're seeking validation from the wrong place. This need for recognition often stems from insecurity, and it's a subtle yet relentless attack on our true identity. But in Christ, we're offered freedom from this insecurity. God is El Roi—the God who sees. Your life is hidden in Christ, which means you are safe and your identity is secure in Him. Psalm 27:5-6 reminds us:

"For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord."

The truth is, the things we do to generate a sense of self-worth—whether it's seeking success, praise, or applause—are empty and fleeting. No title, achievement, or praise can make our identity greater than what God has already made it to be. You can take refuge in God, your Father, and your Savior. He knows you intimately and has already given you the gift of eternal life through Jesus. That gift cannot be taken away, so there's no need to strive for the approval or applause of people to define who you are. Your identity is found, secure, and safe in Christ. He sees you and is well-pleased with you!

ASK

- *God, where am I looking for value, worth, or identity in worldly places?*
- *How does it challenge me to believe that You see me completely, right now?*
- *What insecurities do I need to surrender to experience freedom?*

YIELD

Lord, I thank You for Your protection and provision over my life. I want to believe and receive the truth that I am hidden and secure in You. Teach me what it truly means to find refuge in Christ and to let go of striving for identity in worldly ways. Thank You for offering me eternal life through Jesus. I choose to find my identity in You alone. Amen.

ATTACK ON IDENTITY

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

DAY 6

Today, we're focusing on the identity Christ has given us. Our identity is one of the most powerful gifts and exchanges we receive in Christ, and that's why it's constantly under attack. Sometimes it's a struggle to remember that our old self is dead and gone because of the work Jesus did for us on the cross. But we are made new! Let's learn together how we can stand firm in this new identity in Christ.

PAUSE

Take a moment to pray:

God, I pause to be still in Your presence. I breathe deeply, inhaling Your truth and letting it fill my mind, will, and emotions. As I slowly inhale, I focus on Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that have already crept in today.

I remind myself of 2 Corinthians 5:17: Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old me is gone, and today I am made new in You, Jesus. Lord, reveal to me who You have created me to be. Help me throw off my old self and fully step into who I am in You.

REFLECT

It's not common for most of us to think that our bodies aren't our own. We often define our identity by how we look or what others see in us—our clothes, appearance, fitness level, or style. But 1 Corinthians 6:19 tells us:

“Or 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.”

When we entered into a relationship with Christ, it didn't just change our eternal destiny—it redefined our entire identity. Under the old covenant, God's people often fell short of His commands, but under the new covenant, the Holy Spirit dwells within each of us. When we accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, God wrote His laws on our hearts, not on tablets, and filled us with His Spirit to transform us from within.

We've become individual temples that carry the presence of God! This reality should shape how we see ourselves. The holy God comes to dwell within every believer who loves Him. It's no longer about just following rules; it's about living out this new identity and honoring the presence of God within us. This is why Paul warns us about sexual immorality in 1 Corinthians 6—because we're sinning against our own bodies, which belong to God.

It matters what we do with our bodies. It matters how we treat ourselves. We're no longer our old selves; we're set apart and sanctified. You are a living, breathing temple of the Holy Spirit—a sanctified body that reflects Christ's love and purity. Let that truth take root in your heart today.

ASK

- *Am I discontent with the way God has made me?*
- *Am I treating my body as a temple of the Holy Spirit?*
- *God, what are You teaching me about my identity in this season?*

YIELD

Lord, I can't express the depth of my gratitude for how You have transformed me from broken and sinful into a sanctified reflection of You. I confess that I don't always feel like I reflect You as I should, and I don't always see my body as the dwelling place of Your Holy Spirit. But, Lord, I ask You to continue to shape me and transform me into Your image and likeness. I want to honor You with all that I am. I love You, Lord. Amen.

ATTACK ON IDENTITY

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

DAY 7

Today, we're focusing on the identity that Christ has given us. It's one of the most significant gifts we receive in Him, which is why it's always under attack. We all struggle at times to remember that our old selves are gone because of Jesus' work on the cross. Let's discover together how we can stand firm in our new identity in Christ.

PAUSE

Take a moment to pray:

God, I pause to be still in Your presence. I breathe deeply, inhaling Your truth and letting it fill my mind, will, and emotions. As I slowly inhale, I focus on Your goodness and faithfulness. As I exhale, I release the anxieties, worries, and fears that have already crept in today.

I remind myself of 2 Corinthians 5:17: Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old me is gone, and today I am made new in You, Jesus. Lord, reveal to me who You have created me to be. Help me throw off my old self and fully step into who I am in You.

REFLECT

1 Peter 2:9 reveals an incredible truth about who we are in Christ:

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Have you ever thought of yourself as a priest? This is who God says you are! In the Old Testament, people couldn't approach God directly. Priests acted as intermediaries between God and sinful human beings, offering sacrifices and prayers on behalf of others. But because of Christ's victory on the cross, this pattern has been completely transformed. Now, each one of us who follows Christ is a priest—able to come directly into God's presence without fear or hesitation. What a privilege!

Not only do we have direct access to God, but we've also been given the responsibility of bringing others to Him. As priests, we carry His presence into every place we go and every relationship we have. We are His messengers, inviting others into God's presence so that He can do what only He can do. This is the ministry of reconciliation that we have been called to—reconciling God and people through Jesus.

When our identity is rooted in Christ and we understand that we are part of His royal priesthood, it changes everything. We're not just ordinary people trying to live good lives; we're priests of the Most High God, called to represent Him in the world and bring others into His marvelous light. This is a high calling and a beautiful identity we carry in Jesus!

ASK

- *What would change in my life if I truly saw myself as a priest of God?*
- *Who is God calling me to carry His presence to right now?*
- *Do I believe that I have direct access to God through Jesus?*

YIELD

Lord, I bless You for the way You have spoken truth, life, and identity over me. You've never held my past mistakes, decisions, or even my upbringing against me. Instead, You've been focused on reconciling me to Yourself and speaking a new identity into my soul. Today, I choose to receive the fullness of the identity You have given me. Help me walk boldly in the high calling You've placed on my life. Lead me to be a faithful priest who represents You well. Amen.