

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST, PART 3

PASTOR ANDREW BURNS

MESSAGE FROM SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Our identity determines everything** - Our promises, inheritance, authority, mission, and mandate all flow from understanding who we are in Christ.
2. **We are God's workmanship** - Created for good works that God prepared beforehand for us to walk in.
3. **The power of testimony** - Whether dramatic or "vanilla," every believer has a testimony that can open doors for others to encounter God.
4. **Jesus as our Kinsman Redeemer** - He didn't just cancel our debt; He restored us to righteous standing in God's family.
5. **Freedom is already ours** - Jesus accomplished complete freedom at the cross; we need to walk in that reality.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding Identity

1. **Personal Reflection:** How would you describe your identity before Christ versus your identity in Christ? What has changed?
2. **Scripture Focus:** Read Ephesians 2:10 together. What does it mean that we are God's "poetry" or "workmanship"? How does this challenge the idea that we need to earn God's approval?
3. **Walking vs. Working:** The sermon emphasized "walking with God" rather than "doing things for God." What's the difference? How can we shift from a checklist mentality to a relationship mentality?

The Power of Testimony

1. **Sharing Stories:** Pastor Andrew shared healing testimonies (Matt's eye, Dylan's accident). Have you experienced God's intervention in your life? Share a testimony — big or small — with the group.
2. **Overcoming Comparison:** Why do we sometimes think our testimony isn't "good enough" compared to others? How does the enemy use this to silence us?
3. **Revelation 12:11:** Read this verse together. How does our testimony defeat the enemy?



Living in Freedom

1. **Freedom Reality Check:** John 8:36 says "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Are there areas where you're not experiencing this freedom? What might be holding you back?
2. **The Kinsman Redeemer:** Discuss the concept of Jesus as our Kinsman Redeemer. How does understanding this deepen your appreciation for what He's done?
3. **Communion Connection:** Pastor Andrew explained communion as "weighing well and considering" Jesus' sacrifice. How can taking communion regularly help us remember and walk in our identity?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This Week's Challenge

Option 1: Write Your Testimony

Take 30 minutes this week to write out your testimony in 3 parts:

- Life before Christ
- How you encountered Jesus
- Life after Christ (even if it's ongoing transformation)

Option 2: Daily Identity Declarations

Each morning this week, declare 2-3 identity scriptures over yourself before starting your day. Use the 21 Days of Prayer identity scriptures as a guide.

Option 3: Share Your Story

Pray and ask God to open a door this week for you to share your testimony with someone — whether a believer who needs encouragement or a non-believer who needs hope.

Option 4: Communion at Home

Take communion at home this week. Spend time "weighing well and considering" Jesus' broken body and shed blood. Journal what God reveals to you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Group Prayer Time:

1. **Freedom:** Pray for anyone struggling to live in the freedom Christ has already provided
2. **Boldness:** Ask the Holy Spirit for courage to share testimonies and open doors of reconciliation for others
3. **Revelation:** Pray for deeper understanding of identity in Christ and what it means to be co-heirs with Jesus

GOING DEEPER

For Personal Study:

- Read the entire book of Ruth to understand the kinsman redeemer concept
- Study Psalm 107 and identify the different types of redemption stories
- Memorize Ephesians 2:10 in your preferred translation

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

1. Participate in the church-wide prayer and fasting initiative
2. Pick up a prayer guide or access it at cornerstonejc.com
3. Share what God is speaking to you with the church via email or text
4. Remember: Fasting means sacrificing something that costs you something, not just calories you don't need :)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more!
<https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Water Baptism - February 8
- Ladies Winter Event - February 21

