



*Protect your
IDENTITY*

*I have milked
many cows in
the preparation
of this study,
but the butter
is mine!*



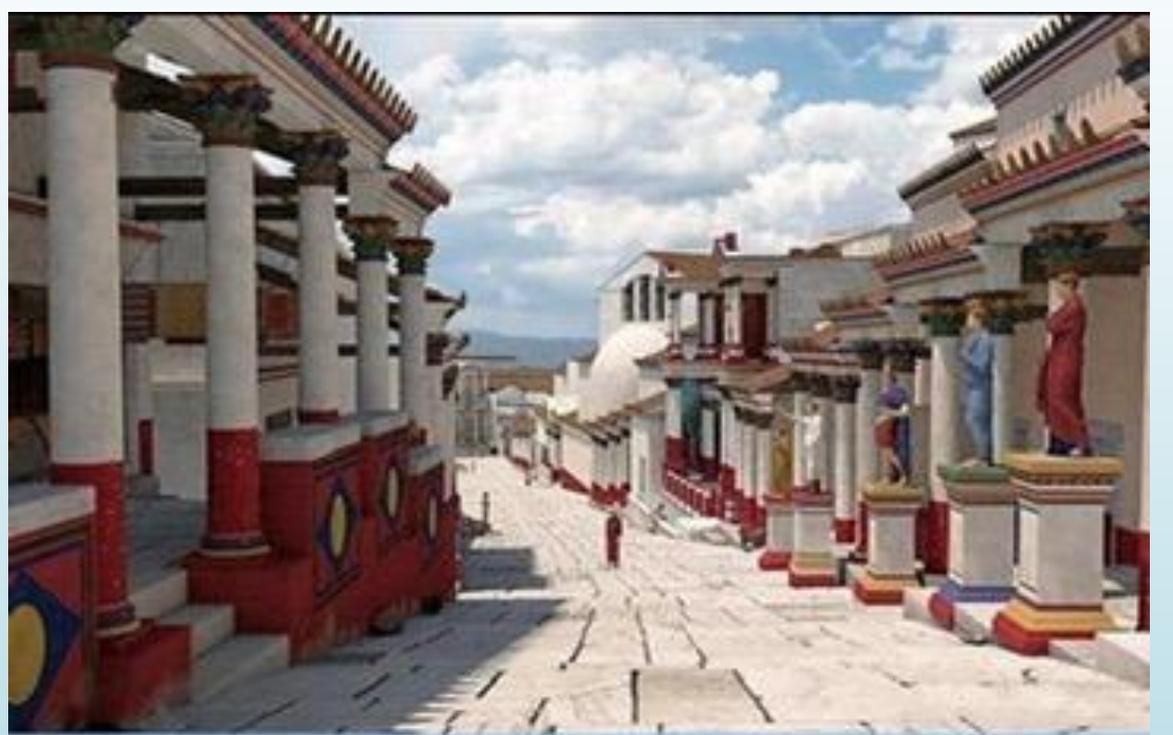
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIAN CHURCH

- An exegetical look at the Christian truths, ideas and concepts presented to the First Century population of Ephesus in Asia Minor.
- Originating from the Greek word *exegeisthai* ("to explain"), it involves detailed study, often of religious texts like the Bible, to understand the original intent and context.



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*Reconstruction
from present
day ruins*









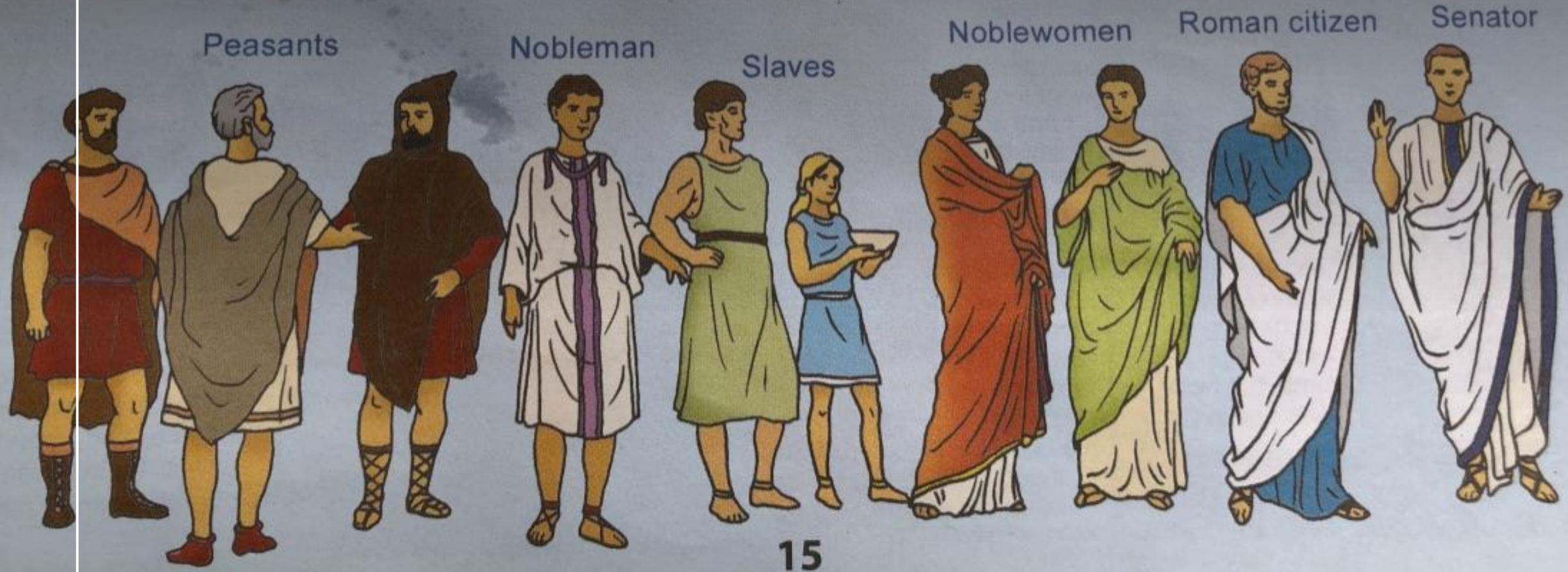


Artemis of the Ephesians

The most important people in the Empire were the Roman citizens. Then there were foreigners and least of all, slaves. To be a Roman citizen was a great privilege. A person was given citizenship by inheriting it, buying it, or as a reward. Professional soldiers received citizenship when they retired from the army. A slave could become a citizen only if his master freed him and arranged for his citizenship.

First Century

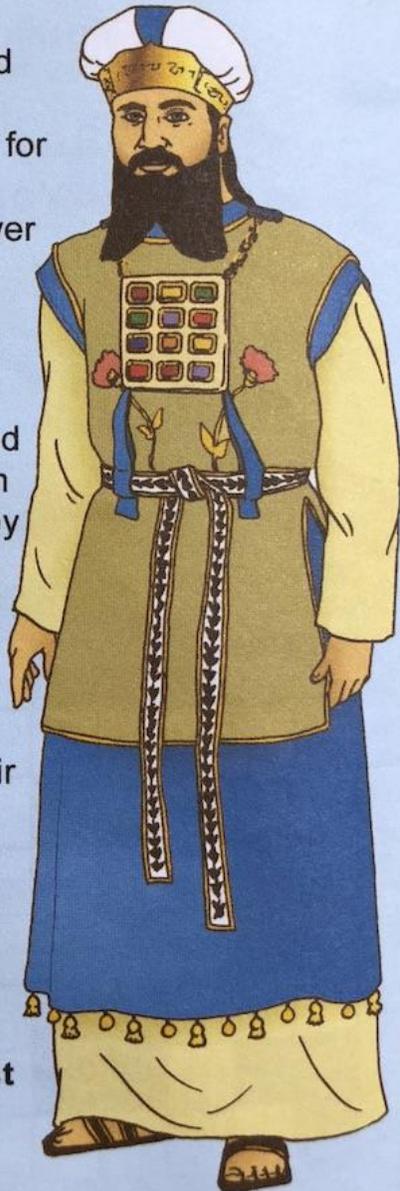
Slaves were the property of their lord and master. Children of slave parents became slaves to their master as well. Slaves had very few rights. Some lords were kind and treated their slaves fairly. But how slaves were treated depended on their master. Their life was spent pleasing their lord and working for him or her.



Religion

Caiaphas was the Jewish religious leader.

He was called the High Priest. He and many of the Jews hated the Romans for worshipping false gods and taking over their country. They wanted nothing to do with the Romans but they pretended to obey them so that they would be allowed to keep their temple and their religion.



High Priest

First Century

Government

The Romans took local leaders and made them promise to be loyal to the Empire. As long as the leaders kept things running smoothly and made sure the people paid taxes, the Romans didn't interfere too much. The people were allowed to live as usual and practise their own religion. But if there was any trouble, the Romans brought in the army to restore order.

In Israel, King Herod's sons ruled for the Romans. Further south around Jerusalem, a Roman ruler had been appointed to make sure that people there obeyed Caesar. His name was Pontius Pilate.

Pilate had up to 5000 regular soldiers including 120 horsemen under his command. He had full control and could put to death anyone who



*Who do you
think you
are?*

What are you?

- Job - Occupation
- Profession Status
- Interests
- Hobbies
- Responsibilities
- Accomplishments

- **How you define yourself**

IMAGE

- Self-made man
- Tough guy
- Possessions
- Car – Renegade, Diablo, Wrangler, Stinger etc.

How do Non-Christians see Christianity?

- Moralists
- Living by knowledge of good and evil.

Judaeo Christian Heritage

The term "**Judaeo-Christian**" refers to the **shared religious, moral, and cultural heritage of Judaism and Christianity.**

- It describes the **common values, beliefs, and scriptures** (primarily the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament) that form a foundation for both faiths.
- The term often highlights the **ethical and moral principles** rooted in the Ten Commandments, monotheism, and covenantal relationship with God.

The identity of a Christian

- Adam – created in the image of God
- Abraham – Called out of Ur of the Chaldees to be the Father of many nations.
- Reckoned Righteous.
- Genesis 12 & 15

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12, 15.

Genesis 17:4–7 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you,
And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.

5 “No longer shall your name be called Abram,
But your name shall be Abraham;

For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.

6 “I have made you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings
will come forth from you.

7 **“I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants
after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God
to you and to your descendants after you.**

Old Testament Covenant

- God uniquely chose Abraham's descendants, (SEED).
- Deut 10:15 “Yet on your fathers did the Lord set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants (seed) after them, *even* you above all peoples, as *it is* this day.

The following chart will help us to understand the seeds of Abraham.

The Four Different Seeds of Abraham			
1. Natural seed	2. Special nat- ural seed	3. Spir- itual seed	4. Uniqu e seed
Includes all physical children, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Jews and Arabs.	The na- tion, or chil- dren, of Is- rael, all of the phys- ical seed of Jacob and	All be- lievers of all ages, David and Paul, Jewish and Gentile be- lievers, you and me.	Christ the Mes- siah



Israel's Covenant Identity in the Old Testament

- Israel's identity was corporate, covenantal, and missional:
- *God's chosen son-nation to display His holiness to the nations.*

- God chose Israel not because of merit, but out of covenant love and promise (Deut. 7:6–8). Their identity was:
 - **God’s Son:**
 - *“Israel is my firstborn son”* (Exod. 4:22–23).
 - This father–child imagery established intimacy and responsibility.
 - **A Holy Nation and Kingdom of Priests:**
 - Exod. 19:5–6 → Israel was set apart (*qadosh*, קֹדֶשׁ) to mediate God’s blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:3).
 - **God’s Treasured Possession (segullāh, סְגֻלָּה):**
 - Israel was Yahweh’s unique inheritance (Deut. 32:9).
 - **Temple/Presence of God:**
 - First in the tabernacle, then in Solomon’s temple, God’s presence dwelt among them (Exod. 25:8; 1 Kgs. 8:10–11).

2. Israel's Failure and Prophetic Hope

Israel often failed to live in their God-given identity (e.g., idolatry, injustice). The prophets pointed forward to a **renewed covenant identity**:

- **New Covenant:**
- Jer. 31:31–34 → Law written on their hearts.
- Ezek. 36:26–27 → New heart and Spirit.
- **Faithful Remnant & Servant of the Lord:**
- Isaiah 49:6 → Servant-Israel will be a light to the nations.
- But this Servant is ultimately fulfilled in the **Messiah** (Isaiah 42–53).

3. Christ as the True Israel

- Jesus recapitulates Israel's story, **fulfilling its covenant identity:**
 - **Son of God:** Just as Israel was called God's son, Jesus is declared the true Son (Matt. 3:17; Hos. 11:1 → Matt. 2:15).
 - **Holy One:** Jesus perfectly embodies holiness (Luke 1:35; John 17:19).
 - **Temple:** He is the new locus of God's presence (John 2:19–21).
 - **Light to the Nations:** He fulfils Isaiah's servant role (Luke 2:32).

4. The Church as the New Covenant People

- Through union with Christ, believers (Jew and Gentile) inherit Israel's covenant identity.
- • **Adopted Sons:** Gal. 3:26–29 → In Christ, all are sons of God, heirs of Abraham's promise.
- • **Holy Nation & Royal Priesthood:** 1 Pet. 2:9–10 deliberately echoes Exod. 19:5–6, applying Israel's identity to the Church.
- • **Temple of the Spirit:** 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:21–22 → The Church is God's dwelling.
- • **Chosen Race:** The Church becomes God's "new humanity" (Eph. 2:15).

• 5. Continuity and Transformation

- • **Continuity:** Both Israel and the Church are defined by God's covenant love, holiness, and mission to the nations.
- • **Transformation:** What was once tied to ethnic Israel, land, and temple is now universalized in Christ — Jew and Gentile together, indwelt by the Spirit, awaiting new creation.
- **Key Verse:** **Galatians 6:16** → The Church is called "*the Israel of God.*"

• **6. Present Christian Identity in This Story**

- • **As Individuals:** Each Christian is a new creation, child of God, indwelt by the Spirit.
- • **As Community:** The Church continues Israel's vocation — God's holy, missional people.
- • **As Eschatological People:** We live between fulfilment (already in Christ) and consummation (not yet, awaiting resurrection glory).

- Inaugurated eschatology is a Christian theological concept that views the end times as having begun with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but not yet fully realized. It emphasizes a "already, but not yet" perspective on God's kingdom, where certain aspects of it are present now while others await a future consummation.
- **Inauguration:** This refers to the beginning of the end times, initiated by Jesus's first coming. Events like his incarnation, death, resurrection, and the giving of the Holy Spirit are seen as the starting point of the kingdom's arrival.
- **"Already, but not yet":** This phrase captures the tension within inaugurated eschatology. While some aspects of God's kingdom are present, such as spiritual blessings and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, other aspects, like the final resurrection and the full defeat of evil, are yet

- **Old and New Ages:**

- Inaugurated eschatology highlights the overlapping of the old and new ages. The old age, characterized by sin and death, is giving way to the new age, where God's reign is progressively established in the individual.

- **Examples:**

- Believers are considered "raised with Christ" (Colossians 3:1), yet await the final resurrection.
- There is no condemnation for those in Christ (Romans 8:1), yet the final judgment is still future.
- The Holy Spirit's presence in believers is an inauguration of God's presence with his people, which will be consummated in the new heavens and earth.

- **Summary Statement:**

- The Christian's present identity is deeply rooted in Israel's covenant story.
- Israel was God's son, priestly nation, and holy possession, yet failed in its calling.
- Christ, the True Israel, fulfilled this vocation, and the Church — united to Him — now shares that identity: **adopted children, holy nation, Spirit-filled temple, and citizens of the coming kingdom.**

Theme	Israel (OT People of God)	Christ (Fulfillment in Him)	Church (NT People of God)
Covenant Identity	Chosen nation through Abraham (Gen 12:1-3; Ex 19:5-6)	The True Seed of Abraham (Gal 3:16); Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb 8:6)	Those united to Christ by faith; "chosen race, royal priesthood" (1 Pet 2:9)
Law / Torah	Given at Sinai (Ex 20; Deut 5)	Fulfills and embodies the Law (Matt 5:17)	Law written on hearts by the Spirit (Jer 31:33; 2 Cor 3:3)
Priesthood	Levitical priesthood offering sacrifices (Lev 1-7)	Great High Priest, once-for-all sacrifice (Heb 7-10)	All believers are a priesthood (1 Pet 2:5; Rev 1:6)
Temple / Presence	Tabernacle/Temple = God dwelling with His people (Ex 25:8; 1 Kgs 8:10-11)	Christ as true Temple (John 2:19-21); "God with us" (Matt 1:23)	Church is God's temple indwelt by Spirit (1 Cor 3:16-17; Eph 2:21-22)
Sacrifices	Animal sacrifices pointing forward to atonement (Lev 16)	Christ's sacrifice once-for-all (Heb 10:10-14)	Offerings of praise, thanksgiving, and self (Rom 12:1; Heb 13:15)
Kingdom / Rule	Earthly monarchy under David (2 Sam 7)	Son of David, eternal King (Luke 1:32-33)	Share in Christ's reign; kingdom people (Col 1:13; Rev 5:10)
Mission	To be a light to the nations (Isa 42:6; 49:6)	The Light of the World (John 8:12)	Sent to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)
Inheritance / Land	Promised Land of Canaan (Gen 15:18; Josh 21:43)	Christ inherits all nations (Ps 2:8; Matt 28:18)	Church inherits the new heavens & earth (Rom 8:17; Rev 21-22)
Circumcision / Sign	Physical circumcision as covenant sign (Gen 17:10-14)	Circumcised of heart (Rom 2:29; Col 2:11)	Baptism & Spirit as covenant signs (Acts 2:38; Col 2:12)







• 1. Rooted in Union with Christ

- The present identity of a Christian is fundamentally grounded in their union with Christ. Paul repeatedly emphasizes the phrase “*in Christ*” (ἐν Χριστῷ, *en Christō*) as the **believer’s defining identity**.
- • **2 Corinthians 5:17** – *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*
- • **Romans 6:3–5** – Baptism signifies that believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection.
- Thus, a Christian is no longer primarily defined by ethnicity, social status, or past sins, but by their **covenantal incorporation** into the Messiah.

- **2. Adopted Children of God**

- Through Christ, believers are adopted into God's family. The language of **adoption** (υἰοθεσία, *huiiothesia*) in Paul's writings draws from both **Roman legal practice** and the Old Testament idea of Israel as God's son.
- - **Romans 8:15-16** – Believers receive the *Spirit of adoption* and cry, “*Abba, Father.*”
 - **Galatians 4:4-7** – No longer slaves, but sons and heirs.
- This adoption gives believers a present identity as God's children, not simply future heirs.

-

• 3. Holy and Set Apart

- The Hebrew concept of *qōdesh* (קֹדֶשׁ – holiness, separation for God) and the Greek *hagios* (ἅγιος – holy one, saint) converge in defining Christians as God’s consecrated people.
- • **1 Peter 2:9** – Christians are “*a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession.*”
- • This echoes **Exodus 19:5–6**, where Israel was called to be a kingdom of priests.
- Thus, Christians presently live as a covenant community, sanctified for God’s mission of witness and testimony to the world.

• 4. Indwelt by the Spirit

- The Christian identity is not merely positional but also experiential, through the indwelling of the **Holy Spirit** (*רוּחַ קדוֹשׁ* / *πνεῦμα ἁγίου* / *pneuma*).
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19–20** – Believers are temples of the Holy Spirit.
 - **Ezekiel 36:26–27** anticipated this reality: God’s Spirit enables obedience from a new heart.
- This indwelling signifies God’s presence within His people, marking them as the true temple.

• 5. Citizens of Heaven

- In a world dominated by earthly empires (Babylon, Rome, etc.), the early church understood its present identity as belonging to a greater polity.
- • **Philippians 3:20** – *“Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- • This is not escapism but a counter-cultural identity, pledging ultimate allegiance to Christ over Caesar.

- **6. Living Between the ‘Already’ and the ‘Not Yet’**

- Christian identity is eschatological. Believers are already redeemed yet awaiting full redemption. (Now but Not Yet)
 - **Ephesians 1:13–14** – The Spirit is the “seal” and “down payment” of the inheritance.
 - **Romans 8:23** – Believers have the first fruits of the Spirit but await the redemption of their bodies.
- This tension defines Christian existence: living as **pilgrims and ambassadors** in the present world while anticipating the kingdom in fullness.

• 7. Ethical Implications of Identity

- Because identity precedes behaviour, the New Testament grounds ethics in ontology (who the believer *is*).
- • **Colossians 3:1–3** – Since believers are raised with Christ, they must set their minds on things above.
- • **Romans 12:1–2** – Their new identity demands a transformed life.
- Thus, Christian morality is not rule-keeping but the outworking of a new nature.

The present identity of a Christian is that of a **new creation in Christ, adopted child of God, holy and Spirit-indwelt temple, citizen of heaven, and ambassador of Christ's kingdom.**

This identity is both **already real** (in union with Christ) and **not yet complete** (awaiting glorification).

Cognitive Dissonance







*Reconstruction
from present
day ruins*





*The Apostle
John
on Patmos*



Pergamum

The Roman capital of Asia during NT times and one of the Seven Churches John addresses in Revelation





Ephesus



*Pergamum
- the seat
of the
Satan.*







Who I Am - In Christ

(Christ in you the hope of Glory - Col 1:27)

I Am

Gods child for I am Born Again of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God which liveth and abideth Forever..... 1 Pet 1:23
Forgiven of all my sins and washed in the Blood..... Eph 1:7;
Heb 9:14; Col 1:14; 1 Jn 2:12; 1:9
A New Creature..... 2 Co 5:17
The temple of the Holy Ghost..... 1 Co 6:19
Delivered from the power of darkness and translated into God's Kingdom..... Col 1:13
Redeemed from the curse of the Law..... Gal 3:13 1Pet 1:18; 19
Blessed Deut 28:1-14; Gal 3:9
A Saint..... Rom 1:7; 1Co 1:2; Phil 1:1
The Head and not the Tail..... Deut 28:13
Above only and not beneath..... Deut 28:13
Holy and without blame before Him in Love 1 Pet 1:16; Eph 1:4
Elect..... 1 Co 3:12; Rom 8:33
Established to the end..... 1 Co 1:18
Made night by the Blood of Christ..... Eph 2:13
Victorious..... Rev 21:7
Set Free Jn 8:31; 32; 33
Strong in the Lord..... Eph 6:10
Dead to Sin..... Rom 6:2,11 1 Pet 2:2
More than a Conqueror..... Rms 8:37
Joint heirs with Christ..... Rms 8:17
Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise..... Eph 1:13
In Christ Jesus by His doing..... 1 Co 1:30
Accepted in the Beloved Eph 1:6
Complete in Him..... Col 2:10
Crucified with Christ..... Gal 2:20
Alive with Christ..... Eph 2:5
Free from Condemnation..... Rms 8:1
Reconciled to God..... 2 Co 5:18
Qualified to share in His inheritance..... Col 1:12
Firmly rooted, built up, established in my faith and overflowing with gratitude..... Col 2:7
Circumcised with the circumcision made without hands..... Col 2:11
A fellow citizen with the saints and of the household of God.. Eph 2:19
Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief corner stone..... Eph 2:20
In the world as He is in Heaven..... 1 Jn 4:17
Born of God and the evil one does not touch me..... 1 Jn 5:18
His faithful follower Rev 17:14 Eph 5:1
Overtaken with blessings Deut 28:2 Eph 1:3
His disciple because I have love for others..... Jn 13:34, 35
The light of the world..... Matt 5:14

Who I Am - In Christ

(Christ in you the hope of Glory - Col 1:27)

The salt of the earth.....Matt 5:13
The righteousness of God2 Co 5:21, 1 Pet 2:24
A partaker of His divine nature.....2 Pet 1:4
Called of God.....2 Tim 1:9
The first fruits among His creation.....James 1:18
Chosen.....1 Pet 2:9, Eph 1:4, 1 Thes 1:4
An ambassador for Christ.....2 Co 5:20
God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works....Eph 2:20
The apple of my father's eyeDeut 32:10 Psm 17:8
Healed by ther stripes of Jesus1 Pet 2:24 Isa 53:6
Being changed into His image2 Co 3:18 Phil 1:6
Raised up with Christ and seated in heavenly places....Eph 2:6 Col 2:12
Beloved of God.....Col 3:12 Rom 1:7 1 Thes 1:4
One in Christ.....Jn 17:21-23

I HAVE

The mind of ChristPhil 2:5 1 Co 2:16
Obtained an inheritance.....Eph 1:11
Access by one spirit unto the Father.....Heb 4:16 Eph 2:18
Overcome the World.....1 JN 5:4
Everlasting life and will not be condemned.....Jn 5:24 Jn 6:4
The peace of God which passes understandingPhil 4:7
Received power, the power of the Holy Spirit; power to lay hands on the
sick and see them recover; power to cast out demons; power over all the
power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt
me.....Mk 16:17, 18b; Lk 10:17, 19

I LIVE

By and in the law of the Spirit of Life in christ Jesus.....Roms 8:2

I WALK

In Christ Jesus.....Col 2:6

I CAN

Do all things in Christ Jesus.....Phil 4:13

MY LIFE

Is hid with Christ in God.....Col 3:3

I SHALL

Do even greater works than Christ Jesus.....Jn 14:12
Possess the greater One in me because greater is He who is in me than he
who is in the world.....1 Jn 4:4

I PRESS

Toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God.....Phil 3:14
Always triumph in Christ.....2 Co 2:14
Show forth His praise.....1 Pet 2:9





The Temple of Artemis
The largest man made
structure in the first century
One of the seven wonders
of the ancient world

Paul's encounter with
Demetrius the silversmith
was over the loss of income
from idols of Artemis



25,000 crowded the
theatre and created an
uproar

Artemis' temple is now
reduced to one column
in a swamp. The
Christian church has
'turned the world upside
down!