

## “Identity Leads To Activity”

### Romans 6

### Sermon Series: “Habits”

#### **Introduction:**

Let’s talk about identity since identity leads to activity, which produces the outcomes of our lives. So as Craig Groeschel says, “who before do.” Last week, we talked about changing our outcomes by changing our choices, but today we need to go further underneath the surface and see that our identity influences the choices we make.

Tim Keller says that identity is self-understanding: “Who am I?”  
And identity is self-regard: “How do I feel about who I am?”

There is some helpful wisdom in Atomic Habits, but as Christians, we can take a different approach that is infinitely better. Instead of trying to become a certain type of person by changing our beliefs and habits, we have already been transformed into a new person by Jesus, and we are trying to live more like who we are already are in Christ. As Christians we are in Christ and our identity is defined by that. Sanctification is becoming more of who we already are. “How do I live like the person I already am?” should be the guiding question for us. Therefore, it is vital for us to see who we are in Christ, count that to be true, and then surrender to Jesus so He lives through us and we experience what He has done in us. **The big idea is that who we are determines what we do as long as we believe and act on who we really are. Believing and living out of who we are in Christ empowers us to live like a new person in Christ. We died to sin in Christ and were raised to new life in Christ so we are to live like a new person in Christ.** (We often confuse who we are with what we do.)

**These verses teach us that we can be changed by Jesus by taking the following 3 actions:**

**1. We can live like a new person in Christ by KNOWING our position in Christ (v. 1-10).** Our position is:

**A. We are dead to sin (v. 2, 6, 10).**

**B. We are alive in Christ (v. 4-5, 8).**

**C. We are identified with Christ (v. 3-10).** This is what is meant by baptism in these verses. It is pictured by water baptism. Christ is not only our substitute, but He is our representative. Our position and identity is that we are in Christ. Our identity is determined by our identification with Jesus. Rick Warren says, “Christlikeness is not produced by imitation, but by inhabitation. We allow Christ to live through us.”

**D. We are raised to walk in the newness of life (v. 4-5).**

**E. We are freed from sin (v. 6-7).** Notice that it says “from sin” and not “to sin.” This does not mean we will never commit sins again. However, it does mean that we now live in the sphere of righteousness instead of a sphere of sin and that sin can no longer reign over us.

**Jesus has made us a new person who is dead to sin, alive in Him, indwelt by Him, and identified with Him. Through Christ in us, we can live like a new person. This is who we are.**

Tim Keller: Only Christianity says that our identity is received (by grace) instead of achieved. Religion, traditionalism, and modern secularism all say that it is achieved by our performance, which can be a crushing load to bear.

**2. We can live like a new person in Christ by CONSIDERING this to be true of ourselves (v. 11).** The first step is knowledge, but the second step is faith. We must believe this to be personally true in our lives. “Reckon” means to consider, count, or place it to an account (example of hearing farmers use this word as a kid). Therefore, we must consider the truths of verses 1-10 to be true of us. We must count it as a fact that we are dead to sin and alive in Christ, identified with Jesus, and free from sin.

**-Verses about who we are in Christ:** Galatians 2:20, John 15:5, Ephesians 1:3, Galatians 4:6-7, Philippians 4:13, 19, Romans 8:1, 31-39, Proverbs 3:5-6, Luke 1:37, Ephesians 3:20

**-Affirmations (here is a link to an excellent resource by Craig Groeschel with some daily affirmations to remind us of who we are and what we have in Christ, <https://finds.life.church/pastor-craig-groeschels-list-of-positive-affirmations-to-renew-your-mind/> )**

**3. We can live like a new person in Christ by SURRENDERING our lives to Him (v. 12-14). God is calling us to consecrate our lives fully to Him by presenting our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). There is a negative and a positive aspect to this. The negative aspect is the refusal to allow ourselves to yield to sin while the positive aspect is yielding to God.**

**Verses about surrender:** Luke 6:46, Luke 9:23, Romans 12:1, Hebrews 12:1-2, Colossians 1:18

**Submit-resist principle (James 4:7)**

**Conclusion: This is how God practically changes our lives. The fruit (which refers to the outcomes of our lives) changes from sin, slavery, and death to righteousness, freedom, and life (v. 15-23).**