



A New Identity In Christ

"For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:50).

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"While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 **But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?** 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!** 50 **For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother"** (Matthew 12:46-50).

Human beings all have natural or inherited identities from birth, culture, traditions and associations. Becoming a Christian introduces a superior identity that transcends previous ones (2 Corinthians 5:17). God demands unalloyed loyalty to the new identity in Christ. Therefore, **being 'wedded' to previous ones, can become obstacles to full realisation of the new**, just like it happened to the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:22 "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions". These scriptures reveals the power and implications of our new identity in Christ - **blood is thicker than water**:

- 1) Nehemiah 13:23-24 In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: 24 **And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people;**
- 2) Acts 11:26 ... And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. **And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch;**
- 3) 1 Peter 1:14-18 **As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:** 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with cor-

" Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

ruptible things, as silver and gold, from your **vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;**

- 4) Matthew 15:1-9 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, 2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. 3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. **Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.** 7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophecy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men;
- 5) Ruth 1:16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, **I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:**
- 6) Acts 2:44-46 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ... 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart;
- 7) Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.