

Who You ARE in CHRIST

by Dr. Steve McVey



like a saint. I don't think of myself as a heavenly poem. I sure don't act very righteous and holy. I don't feel accepted by God." I know how you feel. But you must decide whether you are going to trust what you feel or what God has said in His word. Satan has caused many Christians to believe that they are not really new persons in Christ. He tells them that they should try to act like new creations because that is their Christian duty. But that is not at all what God says. He says that you are a new creation. When you come to believe that fact by faith, you won't feel a need to act. You can just be yourself, allowing the nature of Christ within your spirit to flow through your personality and out of your life, like a river of living water that Jesus talked about that flows from one's innermost being.

Jesus Christ is the core of our existence. That fact gives us an identity which is much greater than most Christians acknowledge! Consider some of the thrilling family traits that you received by being born into the family and placed into Christ.

1. *You are a saint.*

The New Testament calls believers "saints" sixty three times. This doesn't mean that you live a sinless lifestyle, but that God has set you apart and placed the nature of Christ within you.

2. *You are a divine work of art.*

"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:10). The word "workmanship" is the Greek word *poema*, from which we get the English word "poem". God has made you to be

a heavenly piece of poetry on this earth.

3. *You are righteous and holy.*

You have received the gift of righteousness (Romans 5:17). The Lord Jesus *is* your righteousness. When you received Him, your spirit was filled with righteousness. What you are at the spirit level determines your real identity.

4. *You are fully accepted by God.*

You are accepted because you are *in Christ* (Ephesians 1:6). Because Christ has received you and He is fully accepted by the Father, you are fully accepted as well!! You don't need to change a thing about yourself for God to accept you. Your acceptance isn't based on what you do, but on who you are.

These are just the tip of the iceberg!
You may be thinking, "But I don't feel



Hi, I'm Steve McVey, President of Grace Walk Ministries, and we are thrilled that you have let us send you these proven, biblical principles that will help you restore the joy in your life as a Christian. Grace Walk is a teaching and training ministry which exists for the purpose of sharing the life of Jesus Christ with others. Our mission is to help Christians discover the freedom of their new life in Christ. To this end, we use conferences, mission trips, Bible studies, books, newsletters, CD and DVD Studies and my weekly Sunday Preaching message broadcast via our website.

Again, thank you so much for this opportunity to serve you. There's lots more in store at our web site. Be sure to visit us there at www.gracewalk.org. We hope you'll drop by for a visit and that you'll tell a friend about us.

In Him,

flip over for another article by Steve

Living In Love - by Steve McVey

It isn't enough to simply acknowledge intellectually that God loves you. To restrict God's love to the intellect alone will greatly limit our ability to enjoy Him. The raging fire of His love seeks to permeate your mind, your emotions, and your will. Then, having ravaged your soul, His love will leap from your life, through your actions, onto those around you, like a fire that jumps from one tree in the forest to another.



God wants you to both know and to feel His love. There seems to be an overemphasis in many circles, either by focusing on experiencing God through the mind to the exclusion of the emotions, or vice-versa. One group accuses the other of emotionalism while the second views the former as being either afraid or ignorant of the Holy Spirit. One may claim to be led by the Bible, while the other professes to be led by the Spirit, but neither extreme is a biblical position.

God wants His love to invade every part of our being. A balanced life is one in which we clearly understand His love intellectually, deeply experience His love emotionally and purposefully live out of His love volitionally. With life in balance, the written Word guides us objectively and the living Word within guides us subjectively.

From out of the center of His love, we are then able to live the carefree, abundant life that Jesus Christ came to give us. God wants you to enjoy life. He wants you to gulp it down by the gallon!

We have a powerful innate drive to drink deeply of life and, thus, of God — to come to the end of our lives saying that we've truly lived. That this urge belongs at the heart of a person's life makes the circle complete. Life is good!

There is, however, another side. While we long to live this way, most of us are actually terrified to do so. Confronted with the opportunity to dance with life, we cling to our inhibitions and fears and our little ways of skulking in the shadows of uninvolvedness. We may tap our toes, but we're firmly glued to our chairs. We aren't easily persuaded to get up and dance.

As I read Henry David Thoreau's, *Walden Pond*, I was struck by his desire to "suck the marrow from life." It described my own zest for living. What Thoreau thought he could find in nature, I knew could be found in Jesus Christ.

Imagine a life in which the fire of God so consumes you that you lose all inhibitions; a life in which you charge forth confidently into every day with the assurance that God will guarantee your success that day. This life isn't imaginary, it's real! When we live from the blazing glory of His love for us, that is the life we can live.

Tony Campolo once said in a speech, "Most of us are tiptoeing through life so we can reach death safely. We should be praying, 'If I should wake before I die.' Life can get away from you. Don't be satisfied with just pumping blood." There is an abundant life for the taking for those who have the assurance of God's unconditional love and commitment to us.



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