

DISCIPLESHIP 1 Identification Series

CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL
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**DISCIPLESHIP 1
IDENTIFICATION
SERIES**

**LESSON 1
GOD'S IDENTIFICATION WITH SINNERS
THE BELIEVER'S IDENTIFICATION IN CHRIST JESUS**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT . . .**THE BELIEVERS IDENTITY IN CHRIST JESUS****UNIT I - IDENTIFICATION****A. GOD'S IDENTIFICATION WITH SINNERS**

Philippians 2:5-8, Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

God's identification with sinful man for the purpose of saving him from death and eternal destruction was **NO SMALL THING**.

In order to accomplish this it was necessary for the infinite God, the great I am, the creator of this universe to take upon Himself a human nature, human flesh, to become literally a human being subject to all the weaknesses, frailties, needs, emotions and temptations that are common to all humans. And while accomplishing this He must remain at all times fully God. This was a problem worthy of God. Amen.

1. HOW WAS THIS ACCOMPLISHED?

Galatians 4:4, "... when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law..."

Philippians 2:6-7, Jesus "Who, being in the form (Gk. morphe - true essence of being, true form) of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form (morphe) of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man..."

Matthew 1:18. "... the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."

Luke 1:35, "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Hebrews 1:8, "But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom."

Hebrews 2:17-18, "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin."

Conclusions:

To accomplish this identification with man, God the Father, **REDUCED THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD, HIS BELOVED FROM ETERNITY** (the one of whom John 1:1-3 says was from the beginning, who was God, who created all things) to the size of a microscopic seed and planted that seed in the womb of the virgin Mary. In the womb of Mary that seed grew and became the baby Jesus. In this way the Son of God, who is also God the Son (Hebrews 1:8), **added to His already existing divine nature a human nature**. Now Jesus Christ is both God and man. As a true man Jesus identifies with man being subject to all the frailties and temptations of man.

2. PURPOSE

Hebrews 2:17-18, "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Galatians 4:5, "To redeem them that are under the law. that we might receive the adoption of sons."

John 3:16, "God so loved the world. that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish. but have everlasting life."

3. IN WHAT WAYS DID JESUS IDENTIFY WITH MAN?

Jesus' identification with man was a complete identification. According to His humanity, Jesus had all the weaknesses, frailties and needs (emotional-psychological and physical) common to all men.

Hebrews 2:11-18, "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

Including:

- **Being tempted**

Hebrews 2:18, "For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted He is able to help them that are tempted."

Hebrews 4:15. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin".

CONCLUSIONS: Jesus' Identification was real. He suffered, struggled, agonized over the temptations that Satan placed before Him. I have no doubt that like Eve, and all men, women and children since the time of Eve, the thought was in His mind to taste the forbidden fruit. But unlike Eve and every one since, HE DID NOT YIELD, GIVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION, HE SAID NO TO THE SIN.

Question: Since Jesus was born 'holy' (Luke 1:35) He did not have a sin nature) therefore, not having a propensity to sin, that is to say, not having a natural inclination or tendency to sin, not bent toward sin, HOW COULD THE TEMPTATIONS REALLY BEEN TEMPTING?

True, Jesus was born 'holy' not having a sin nature or a natural tendency to sin but neither did Adam and Eve have a sin nature or a natural tendency to sin, being created in the image of God in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24), YET THEY SINNED. The sin nature is not an inherent/necessary/essential part of the human nature. The sin nature is inherited and is not a characteristic of the human nature.

But Jesus is God, therefore, He could not sin. True, Jesus is God and God cannot sin. But Jesus was and still is a man and as a man, according to His human nature it had to be possible for Him to sin, otherwise, He would not have been like unto His brethren "In all things", nor would He have suffered and agonized over the temptation to sin.

Jesus did not make use of His divine nature when He resisted sin - said NO to the temptation to taste of the forbidden fruit.

- **Learning obedience**

Secondly, we see that Jesus identifies with man in that He also had to learn obedience. Here we, also, see the purpose behind our Father God allowing Adam and Eve, all men and Jesus to be tempted by Satan. So that we might learn to say no to sin through obedience. In this way He proves us.

Hebrews 5:9, "Though He were a Son. Yet learned obedience by the things He suffered..."

Philippians 2:8, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

- **Dying to self will; desires/lusts of the flesh**

Jesus identified with us in that He had to die to His own desires. This was an agonizing and painful process. He **suffered over** dying to **Himself**. We see this when in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus not wanting, not desiring to suffer the accursed death that was before Him prayed . . .

Luke 22:42,44, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done . . . And being In an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

Hebrews 5:7, "Who In the days of his flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplication: with STRONG CRYING AND TEARS UNTO HIM THAT WAS ABLE TO SAVE HIM FROM DEATH. AND WAS HEARD IN THAT HE FEARED."

Jesus found like you and I, that dying to self is hard and painful, but unlike you and I, He was able to accomplish in the garden a complete and total dying to self, even to His desire to live. He was able to get control of one of the strongest desires of man, the survival Instinct.

- o **Becoming a sinner**

Jesus having lived a sinless life as a man, in perfect obedience to the Father(John 8:29); having totally and completely died to Himself in the Garden of Gethsemane; was now ready to complete His identification with man by **identifying with sin and dying the death of a sinner** on Calvary's Cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He hath made Him (Jesus) **to be sin FOR us**, who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

Isaiah 53:6, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the **LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.**"

Isaiah 53:12, ". . . he hath poured **out his soul unto death**; and he was **numbered with the transgressors**; and he **bare the sins** of many . . ."

Matthew 8:17, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**"

Hebrews 2:9. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God **should taste death for every man.**"

Psalms 88:3,4,6-8, "For my soul is full of troubles and my life draweth nigh unto the grave. I am **counted with them that go down into the pit** . . . Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps, **Thy wrath lieth hard upon me with all thy waves.**"

I John 2:2,"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

Jesus fully and so completely identified with us in our lost and hopeless condition that He literally become sin in our place and than became the object or appeasement of God's wrath against sin by dying the death of a sinner. **AMEN! THANK YOU JESUS!**

B. THE BELIEVER'S IDENTIFICATION IN CHRIST JESUS

In this lesson we want to talk about being a partaker of the divine nature -
OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH JESUS.

2 Peter 1:4, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature."

1 John 4:17. "...as he is (as Jesus is) so are we in this world." As Jesus is right now, so are we right now in this world.

That's our identification that's who we REALLY ARE. AMEN!

When a person is born again a **divine nature is added to his already existing human nature.**

1. HOW DID WE BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE?

John 1:12-13, "But as many as receive Him to them gave He power (authority) to become the sons (Lit. children) of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born not of blood. nor of the will of man. but (born) of God.

John 3:3, 'Verily, verily. I say unto thee, except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

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

Producing after its own kind, that is, taking on the nature and the characteristics of its parents or parent. is a principle established by God at creation, it is a universal *Law of Nature*. Refer to Genesis chapter 1.

Therefore when a person is born-again he becomes a partaker of the Divine Nature since he takes on the nature and character, the likeness of God who birthed him.

WE, THEN, ARE CHILDREN OF GOD, through the miracle of the new birth. We who have been born again have been recreated in the image of our Father. He who is the great I am, the creator of this universe, the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the King of kings -**IS OUR FATHER!** Amen!!

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE?

2 Corinthians 5:11, "Therefore If any man be In Christ, he is a **new creature** (lit, a new creation); old things have passed away; behold, **all things are become new.**

If you are born again . . .

1. YOU ARE A NEW CREATION, a new life, you have a new birth, you are an entirely new person; (just as Adam and Eve were originally created in the image of God, so in the new creation you have been recreated after the image of God in

righteousness and true holiness; being made a partaker of the divine nature; being like Jesus in this world.

2. OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY

WHAT ARE THE OLD THINGS THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY?

a. THE SIN NATURE, the old man

Romans 6:6, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

b. GUILT AND CONDEMNATION has passed any.

Romans 8:1. "There Is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus . . ."

Because Jesus took upon Himself every sin which we have or will ever commit, being condemned in the flesh, and paying the penalty of death for those sins, there is therefore now no condemnation for those who through faith have received Jesus Christ as their Savior. Since there is now NO SIN to condemn, there is no guilt and condemnation of sin.

c. THE BONDAGE OF SIN has passed away.

Romans 6:11, "Likewise reckon (take into account) ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 8:2, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Ephesians 4:24, "And that you put on the NEW MAN which is created in righteousness and true holiness."

I John 3:9, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed (God's seed, that is to say the nature of God) remaineth In him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

The person who is not born again because of his sin nature is a slave to sin, he is in bondage to sin and can do nothing but sin. He is a sinner because his nature is sin.

The person who is born again because he has the nature of God is not a sinner and therefore is freed from sin.

Therefore, being freed from sin also releases you from the bondage of sin. Sin is no longer your master---you are free. As the Bible says, "He whom the Son sets free is free indeed" (John 8:36). Amen.

END of IDENTIFICATION Series Lesson 1

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