

## Sermon Series: *Identity*

5/31/26, “Changed,” Eph. 2:1-10, MEV

**INTRODUCTION** imagine a butterfly behaving like a caterpillar

Paul: refers to his past but lives as a child of God, not a pharisee

how often do we continue to live as we did before being born again?

**MAIN IDEA: I can live in ways that pleases Jesus *now*.** How? By *believing (in mind & action)* 3 things He has given me.

### I. First, new life (1-5)

A. before becoming born again, I was dead (1-3)

1. spiritually, in trespasses & sins

**Trespasses:** transgression of a known rule of life, involves guilt

**Sins:** missing the mark (God’s standard)

2. living according to this wicked generation (age)
3. under the authority of Satan, who works in the lost
4. living by our lusts & mind (understanding)
5. under the wrath of God with all unbelievers

B. But God made us alive in Christ (spiritually alive...able to hear & know God now)

1. because of His love and mercy
2. He “saved” us while we were yet “dead”
3. we couldn’t win His approval (“saved by grace”)
4. He lifted up gold from a dung heap—the value of Jesus from what was to be burned up

**ILLUSTRATION:** a blind, senseless person trying to live clean in a filthy world (tube of grease used as soap)

### II. Second, new position (6-7)

A. sometimes we feel trapped...*by our past experiences, mistakes, identity (feels like who we really are)*

1. we had been bound here on earth, dead

2. never to reach heaven

B. but God has taken us from all of that to a new place

**Raised us up together:** from moral death to a new blessed life devoted to God (*Thayer*)

1. raised us with Jesus in resurrection power
2. to eternal life
3. He sees us seated with Jesus even now

**NOTE:** He is outside time—seeing our present but not limiting us to it, seeing our future, once we are past all of our struggles.

C. this awareness gives us new identity

1. no longer defined by our past
2. breaking us free from bondages, false identities
3. giving us hope...enabling us to live beyond our natural impulses, to see ourselves as God does
4. flooding us with understanding of God’s great love, mercy, grace (1:18)
5. forever we will be evidence of His grace

**ILLUSTRATION:** given sight, senses, real soap, clean place

### III. Finally, new purpose (8-10)

A. freed from trying to be good enough to reach heaven

1. by God’s grace—undeserved mercy, not a reward
2. through faith—trusting in Jesus & His work

B. as His workmanship, purposed for good deeds

1. created in Jesus (created by Him, recreated in Him)
2. to do good works He had prepared for us to do, according to our new nature

**ILLUSTRATION:** no longer to serve myself but God

**CONCLUSION:** William Bumphus...must see ourselves as new creations

**ALTAR:** been living blind, see yourself as a new creation