

Identity 8: Ephesians 2:10-22

We are engineered by his design; he molded and manufactured us in Christ. We are his workmanship, his poetry. (God finds inspired expression of Christ in us. The Greek word for workmanship is poeima). We are fully fit to do good, equipped to give ATTRACTIVE EVIDENCE of his likeness in us in everything we do. (God has done everything possible to find spontaneous and effortless expression of his character in us in our everyday lifestyle. The word, proetomatso, translates a notion that God has prepared a highway for us to lead us out LIKE KINGS, just like the Oriental custom, where people would go before a king to level the roads to make it possible for the king to journey with ease and comfort) [Eph. 2:10](#).

Poeima is THE RESULT OF THE MAKING, THE WORK. It means "the design produced by the artisan." Before we were born again, our lives had no rhyme or reason but once we were born again, God recreated us with balance, symmetry, and order. WE ARE HIS POEM. WE ARE HIS MASTERPIECE. The Mirror Bible uses the word ENGINEER. The original meaning of this word was DESIGNER, INVENTER. You will notice repeatedly that Francois uses the term "blueprint." In order to design or invent something, you must have the blueprint first. OUR BLUEPRINT IS JESUS CHRIST.

It states that HE MOLDED AND MANUFACTURED US IN CHRIST before Christ came. Father and Son had a meeting in which they decided that the Son would become Man to redeem us from the evil one. Father had His blueprint and 4,000 years after the fall, He formed that blueprint into a living, breathing baby without ANY DEFAULT OR DEFECT OF THE FALLEN NATURE. With this NEW CREATION in the Man Jesus, Father's character, will, emotions, etc. were all displayed perfectly to mankind. Jesus is the measure, the standard of who we are now. When we are born again, FATHER MOLDS US INTO THE VERY SAME IMAGE OF CHRIST IN OUR SPIRITS! This is only after we are born again. We are only manufactured IN CHRIST. **Think of a great sculptor who has shaped your spirit into the exact image or replica of a statue of Christ. IT IS DONE. Now the sculptor will begin the shaping of YOUR SOUL into the exact image of Christ through the renewing of your mind using the REVELATORY WORD OF GOD.** Simply reading the Bible won't cut it. It is an intimate relationship with Holy Spirit unveiling revelation FROM THE WORD to you that brings transformation and identity.

The phrase "fully fit" is incredible and reveals that the highway prepared for us was Jesus Christ coming first! HE WENT BEFORE US TO MAKE OUR WAY EASY AND COMFORTABLE.

[Joshua 3:1-4](#) (NKJV)

¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over.

² So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp;

³ and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.

⁴ Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed *this* way before."

This can speak of the end-of-the-age return of the Lord as well but the principle demonstrated here does speak to our salvation experience. Acacia Grove represents the FLESH NATURE, the FALLEN NATURE. Acacia wood is almost impossible to form and work with. So the Israelites left this place to cross over into Promise Land, which represents us beginning to access the PROMISES that Jesus Christ gave us in abundance. BUT YOU MUST RECKON OR CONSIDER YOUR OLD WAY OF DOING AND THINKING DEAD.

The OFFICERS OF THE CAMP represent the 5-fold ministry in [Ephesians 4:11-12](#) that EQUIP the saints for the work of ministry. Equip means to bring WHOLENESS. God wants your SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY TO BE JUST AS CHRIST ON THE EARTH. The officers instruct the Israelites to follow the ark, a PROPHEMIC SYMBOL OF JESUS CHRIST, 2,000 cubits (years if end-of-age example) SO THEY

MIGHT KNOW THE WAY WHICH THEY MUST GO BECAUSE IT IS A NEW WAY. **JESUS WAS OUR PIONEER, OUR APOSTLE WHO WENT BEFORE US!**

Joshua 3:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people,

¹⁵ and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest),

¹⁶ that the waters which came down from upstream stood *still*, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that *is* beside Zaretan.

This represents water baptism just as Moses leading the people through the Red Sea represented water baptism.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

³ all ate the same spiritual food,

⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Hebrews 4:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

Rest is a cessation from all your works. You simply REST IN THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST and allow your new creation identity to diffuse throughout your soul changing how you THINK, FEEL, and DECIDE. **BUT WHAT YOU HEAR MUST BE MIXED WITH FAITH.** When you discover that part of your promise land is divine health, you can be assured you will face the GIANT OF ILLNESS and have to choose to have FAITH or believe the BAD REPORT and remain in the wilderness. **But rest assured that Jesus faced that giant for us and when we enter into agreement with His word and follow His strategy, THAT GIANT BECOMES OUR FOOD.**

We are FULLY FIT or EQUIPPED or WHOLE as stated above to do good. Remember that no one is good but God and because God dwells in us through Christ's Spirit, we possess the amazing ability to DO GOOD FROM a place of rest not toil. And I love this, "EQUIPPED TO GIVE ATTRACTIVE EVIDENCE OF HIS LIKENESS IN EVERYTHING WE DO." The NKJV says, "...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand." What this literally means is that He has given us the ability to perform as He performed on earth and that we are ORDAINED, which means selected, to do so! "Walk in them..." in the NKJV means that we are TO REGULATE ONE'S LIFE, TO CONDUCT ONE'S SELF, TO ORDER ONE'S BEHAVIOR based on the good works He already selected for us and that are written in our destiny books.

"We were created in Christ Jesus for good works," and these good works are described as those good works "which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." The word "ordained" is *proetoimazō*, "to prepare before, to make ready beforehand;" Vincent says: "God prearranged a sphere of moral action for us to walk in. Not only are works the necessary outcome of faith, but the character and direction of the works are made ready by God."

Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament - Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament – Volume 1.

OUR LIVES ARE MEANT TO GIVE ATTRACTIVE EVIDENCE OF JESUS. This is important. First, it is in everything we do, which means your home being clean, your car being taken care of, your body being taken care of as the temple, your finances in order, prosperity, health, and peace are all included. **WE CANNOT SPIRITUALIZE THE EVERYTHING TO ONLY THE "CHRISTIAN" ACTIVITIES.** God told me years ago when I was outside painting our window and roof trim that the upkeep of our home and cars was actually preparing us to steward spiritual riches, which include **GOD'S INHERITANCE, HIS PEOPLE.** You will have times where you are busier than other times and might have a bit of things to catch up on, but overall your life should be **ATTRACTIVE** to others. This means that driving a rusted out car held together by bailing wire is **NOT ATTRACTIVE.** Being a person of anger, depression, control, and without peace is **NOT ATTRACTIVE.** Living in a dump that is filthy is **NOT ATTRACTIVE.** If you have to live in a dump or bad neighborhood for a while then your house should be the best looking on the block! **A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE IS DOING THE BEST WITH WHAT YOU HAVE WHILE WAITING ON GOD TO GIVE YOU STRATEGY FOR PROMOTION AND UPGRADE.**

[Luke 16:11-12](#) (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true *riches*?

¹² And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, how will you give to your own?

[Matthew 25:23](#) (NKJV)

²³ His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Remember where you have come from; (not only were you spiritual dead but) it wasn't long ago when you were still classified as non-Jewish, judging on the surface you had nothing that linked you to them. They sneered at you because you didn't share their distinguishing mark of circumcision, which was their claim to fame! During that time you were distanced from the Messianic hope; you had nothing in common with Israel. You felt foreign to the covenants of prophetic promise, living a life with nothing to look forward to in a world where God seemed absent. **BUT NOW, WOW! EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED;** you have discovered yourself **TO BE LOCATED IN CHRIST.** What once seemed so distant is now so near; his blood **REVEALS YOUR REDEEMED INNOCENCE AND AUTHENTIC GENESIS** ([Eph. 2:11-13](#)).

Paul is revealing a key here to maintaining humility as we progress in our renewal--**REMEMBER WHERE YOU CAME FROM.** We were outside the promises of God as Gentiles. We had no way to access the hope of the Messiah. **BUT GOD** had a plan in which both Jew and Gentile would become **ONE NEW MAN** in Christ. **WE ARE LOCATED IN CHRIST!** In fact, Jew and Gentile means nothing now in Christ only receiving the free gift of salvation counts for anything. And instead of having to keep laws, we are redeemed by His blood and created in **INNOCENCE AND IN HIM WHO HAS NO SIN! Our waters have been rolled back to Adam!** For the believer, it is as if sin **NEVER OCCURED.** Getting our soul to agree with this is where the **WORKING OF OUR SALVATION** comes in!

Now Paul enumerates five things that were true of these uncircumcised Gentiles. The *first* is that they were "without Christ." Expositors say: "It describes their former condition as one in which they had no connection with Christ; in which respect they were in a position sadly inferior to that of the Jews, whose attitude was one of hoping and waiting for Christ, the Messiah. Their apartness from Christ, their lack of all relation to Him—this is the first stroke in the dark picture of their former heathen life, and the four to which the eye is directed in the subsequent clauses all follow from that." To understand the above most clearly, we should know that the word "Christ" is the English spelling of the Greek word *christos*, which in turn is the translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah. The word "Christ" here is not to be taken in its Christian sense, but in its Jewish one. The point is not that these Ephesians were without Christ as Savior, but as Gentiles, they had no covenant connection with Him as the Jews had with Him as Messiah.

The *second* thing true of these Ephesians was that they were "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel." We have a participle in the Greek, "alienated from the commonwealth of Israel." Expositors says: "It does not necessarily imply a lapse from a former condition of attachment or fellowship, but expresses generally the idea of being a *stranger* as contrasted with one who is *at home* with a person or an object. The term *politeia* (commonwealth) has two main senses—a *state* or *commonwealth*, and citizenship or the rights of a citizen. The first of these is most in harmony with the theocratic term 'the Israel,' and so it is understood by most. These Ephesians, therefore, had no part in the theocracy, the O.T. constitution under which God made Himself known to the Jew and entered into relation with him."

The *third* thing true of them was that they were "strangers from the covenants of promise." The definite article is in the Greek text. It is, "strangers from the covenants of the promise." Expositors comments: "The word *xenos* (strangers), which has the particular meaning of one who is not a member of a state or city, is used here in a general sense of *foreign* to a thing, having no share in it. The *diathēkai* (covenants) are the covenants with Abraham and the patriarchs. It is obviously the covenants of Messianic significance that are in view. That the Mosaic Law or the Sinaitic Covenant is not in view seems to follow from the mention of the promises; for that covenant was not distinctively of the promise, but is described by Paul as coming in after it and provisionally ([Gal. 3:17-19](#)). The 'promise' is the one distinctively so-called, the great Messianic promise given the Hebrew people."

The *fourth* thing true of these Gentiles was that they had "no hope." Expositors says: "It is not only that they had not the hope, the Messianic hope which was one of the distinctions of the Israelite, but that they were utterly without hope. Ignorant of the divine salvation and of Christ in whom it was found, they had nothing to hope for beyond this world."

The *fifth* thing was that they were "without God in the world." Again, Expositors has a helpful comment: "As they were without Christ, and without hope, so were they without God—without the knowledge of the one true and living God and thus destitute of any God. So in [Gal. 4:8](#), Paul speaks of Gentiles like these as *knowing* not God and doing service unto them *which by nature are no gods*." As to the phrase: "in the world," the same authority says: "The domain of their life was this present evil world, and in it, alienated as it was from God, they had no God."

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It is in him that we are one and at peace with everyone; he dissolved every definition of division. (What we now will put war and divorce out of business!) [Eph 2:14](#)

Listen to the Wuest.

For He Himself is our peace, the One who made the both one, having broken down the middle wall of the partition.

The wall of separation was the Mosaic Law.

In his incarnation, he rendered the entire Jewish system of ceremonial laws and regulations USELESS AS A MEASURE TO JUSTIFY human life and conduct. In that he died humanity's death all grounds for tension and hostility were entirely removed. The peace he proclaims reveals one new human race, created and defined in Christ, instead of two groups of people separated by their ethnic identity and differences. Both parties are fully represented and equally reconciled to God in one human body through the cross. He reinstated the former harmony; all opposing elements were thus utterly defeated ([Eph 2:15-16](#)).

The inclusion of both Jew and Gentile in the family of God has always been God's intent. In fact, He told the Jews to be an evangelistic light to the Gentiles so they could enter the covenant as well BEFORE

Christ. Instead they turned inward excluding and even treating with contempt those outside. In fact, they called Gentiles the UNCIRCUMCISION, a name that held contempt and hostility toward them.

Even so, the Law was also at enmity against not only us but the Jew. No one could keep the law perfectly. So the Law of Moses produced enmity between Jew and Gentile and between man and God. So Jesus Christ came and abolished it literally meaning "RENDERED INOPERATIVE." For the Christian, the Law of Moses is rendered inoperative, USELESS AS A MEASURE TO JUSTIFY. I.e. if you try to keep the Mosaic Law to be justified, you are RESURRECTING WHAT JESUS DIED TO ABOLISH.

The one new man is an incredible term! Many have thought that it means the JEW REMAINS A JEW and the GENTILE A GENTILE but the TWO ARE NOW JOINED TOGETHER in Christ. **BUT WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS IS THAT BOTH THE JEW AND THE GENTILE ARE NOW TO BE LOST IN AN ENTIRELY NEW CREATION MAN CALLED THE CHRISTIAN.** Race and ethnicity no longer matter in Christ and neither does gender. Paul states that a true Jew is one who has been circumcised in the heart. What he means is not that we are seen as Jewish to God but that we NOW HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD (A RIGHT ONLY TO THE JEW BEFORE) IN CHRIST JESUS.

On that basis he made his public appearance, proclaiming good news of peace to the entire human race; both those who felt left out in the cold (as far as the promises and covenants were concerned), as well as those who were near all along (because of their Jewish identity). **BECAUSE OF CHRIST BOTH JEW AND GENTILE NOW ENJOY EQUAL ACCESS TO THE FATHER IN ONE SPIRIT.** The conclusion is clear, you are no longer frowned upon as a foreigner; **YOU ARE WHERE YOU BELONG AND PART OF AN INTIMATE FAMILY WHERE NO ONE IS SUSPICIOUS OR INFERIOR** ([Eph. 2:17-19](#)).

The unity God restored to mankind was the unity that was first experienced before Adam and Eve fell. There was no separation or inferior ethnic group before the fall. Sin brought the division. And God chose those who responded to His call in the lineage of Adam and later Abraham to give the promises to and the law because **ABRAHAM RESPONDED IN FAITH.** Faith is the GENESIS of the Jewish race that culminated in the coming of Christ. Ironically, it was unbelief that temporarily excluded the nation of Israel by their rejection of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. This allowed us as NON-JEWS to enter the covenant through the death and resurrection of Christ. **BUT I WANT TO SAY THAT AS A FAMILY IN CHRIST THERE SHOULD BE NO SUSPICION NOR SUPERIORITY!**

Dictionary defines suspecting "to believe to be guilty, false, counterfeit, undesirable, defective, bad, etc., **with little or no proof:** 2. to doubt or mistrust.

Your lives now give tangible definition to the spiritual structure, having been built into it by God upon the foundation that the prophets and apostles proclaimed. The first evidence of this building was Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. (He is the visible testimony to the restored image and likeness of God in human form.) In him everyone of us are like **LIVING LEGO BLOCKS** fitted together of the same fabric (conversation), giving ever increasing articulation to a **GLOBAL MOBILE SANCTUARY** intertwined in the Lord. **IN HIM YOU ARE CO-CONSTRUCTED TOGETHER AS GOD'S PERMANENT SPIRITUAL RESIDENCE. YOU ARE GOD'S ADDRESS!** [Eph. 2:20-22](#).

You are the **MOST HOLY PLACE** of God as in the temple in the OT. He no longer houses Himself in a building made of stones but He lives in individuals who together create His home. **OUR LIVES GIVE TANGIBLE DEFINITION THAT WE ARE THE HOUSE OF GOD.** It goes back to making sure that we are **ATTRACTIVE EVIDENCE** to others.

And so I hope you can see why the enemy hits identity so hard. When you don't know who you are and feel inferior, you will compete and be suspicious of others. It creates

disunity and dishonor and dampens the anointing and presence of Holy Ghost. THERE IS NOTHING INFERIOR ABOUT CHRIST DWELLING IN YOU!