



Get Ready For a New Start

Identity

Here's some great news... **your identity is not what you have done!** As much as it might feel like this situation will follow you for the rest of your life, it really isn't. Sure, you may always remember the time you messed up and had to pay the consequences. But you need to understand something, there will be a day in your future, maybe sooner than you think, when you will be beyond these walls and with people who don't see you as the person who made mistakes. As a matter of fact, they won't even know about this part of your life.

But you might be thinking, "Yeah, but I'll know, and this will always hold me back." You may feel that way now, but I have some great news for you. You have another option. Jesus said in the Bible, in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "...If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; all things become new." Jesus is offering you a new identity.

You might have heard people use the word "saved" in the past when talking about their relationship with God. Do you understand what that means? When Jesus came to live on this earth, die on the cross, then rise from the dead and ascend back to heaven, He did all this for a reason. He did it so you and I might have the opportunity to be "saved." You might ask, "Saved from what?" He offers His life and death on the cross as a substitute for us and all the sin we have done. He said to God, His Father, I have paid the price, the "sin debt" for you and me. Now, all we have to do is accept Him, accept His gift of forgiveness, and commit our life to Him, and we can be saved for all of eternity. We become a new person, a child of God.

The Bible says in John 3:17, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 10:9-10, "Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Remember 2 Corinthians 5:17, "...If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; all things become new."

If you are ready for a new identity, why not pray today and ask Jesus to forgive you of all your sin, come into your heart, and save you. Commit your life to Him and ask Him for your new identity in Him. **Take some time and write a "prayer to God" on the back of this sheet. Keep it as a reminder of your new identity in Jesus.**

Discuss in a group or with a friend some of the things you would like God to take out of your life: (Examples could be fear, guilt, loneliness, etc...) Make a list on the back of this sheet.

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