WHO AND A CONTRICT OF A CONTRI

"We sing the (beautiful) praise chorus, 'It's all about you, Jesus.' Who are we kidding? It's all about Jesus-as long as it's in a service I like, in a building I like, with people I like, with music I like, for a length of time I like. At some point in this generation, 'Take up your cross and follow me' changed into, 'Come to Jesus and he'll make your life better."

Misreading Scripture Through Western Eyes, p.195



1. Find our identity in the cross

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23



If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.





If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else-your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters-yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26-27



I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20



For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as **Christ was raised from the dead** by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.





2. Find our identity in the word of God

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14



Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.





The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13



So you also are complete through your union with Christ





3. Find our identity in God's love

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35



But I say, love your enemies! **Pray for those who persecute** you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:44-45



4. Find our identity as citizens of heaven

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.

Hebrews 11:13



But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:16



The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world.





"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity



Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with **Christ in God.**

Colossians 3:1-3



am the Creator and you are my creation. breathed into your nostrils the breath of life





I created you in my own image





My eyes saw your unformed substance





I knit you together in your mother's womb





know the number of hairs on your head, and before a word is on your tongue know it

Matthew 10:30; Psalm 139:4



You are fearfully and wonderfully made





You are more valuable than many sparrows





have given you dominion over all sheep and oxen and all beasts of the field and birds of the heavens and fish of the sea

Psalm 8:6-8; Genesis 1:26, 28



have crowned you with glory and honor as the pinnacle and final act of the six days of creation

Psalm 8:5; Genesis 1:26



However, from the very beginning, you exchanged the truth about me for a lie. You worshiped and served created things rather than me, the Creator

Romans 1:25



You have sinned and fallen short of my glory





Just as I said to Adam and Eve, the penalty for your sin is death

Romans 6:23; Genesis 2:17



And in your sin, you were spiritually dead





You were children of wrath, living as enemies to me

Ephesians 2:3; Romans 5:10



You turned aside from me. You became corrupt. There is none who does good, not even one





What you deserve is my righteous judgment





And yet, in my great love, I gave my unique Son, that all those who believe in him will not perish but have everlasting life

John 3:16



While you were still sinners, Christ died for you. While you were still hostile toward me, you were reconciled to me by the death of my Son

Romans 5:8, 10



Sin doesn't have the last word. Grace does





Now everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved





You who have believed are born again





have adopted you





You are children of God, heirs of God

1 John 3:2; Romans 8:16-17



You are no longer orphans. You belong to me

John 14:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19



And I love you as a perfect Father

1 John 3:1; Luke 15:20-24



n my eyes, you are a brand new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come

2 Corinthians 5:17



Sin is no longer your master, for you died to sin and are now alive to me

Romans 6:11; Ephesians 2:4-5



You are finally free from the slavery of sin and death. There is now no condemnation for you





All your sins are forgiven





All your unrighteousness has been cleansed by the blood of Jesus





You are now righteous in my sight with the very righteousness of my perfect Son





You've been saved by grace





You've been justified by faith





You are utterly secure in me; nothing will be able to separate you from my love in Christ Jesus





No one is able to snatch you out of my hand





And I will never leave you nor forsake you





You not only have a new Father, but also a new family of brothers and sisters





You are now part of the people of God





And together the life you now live is by faith in my Son





Look to Jesus. Keep your eyes on him. He is the author and perfecter of your faith

Hebrews 12:2



Christ is in you by my Spirit, and you are in Christ

John 15:5; Colossians 1:27



Stay close to Jesus. Abide in him





For your life is found in him

John 14:6; Colossians 3:3-4



To live is Christ, and to die is gain





Don't live by your own power or understanding. No, live by my Spirit within you

Zechariah 4:6; Proverbs 3:5



Remember, I have given you the Holy Spirit to be with you and in you

Romans 5:5; John 14:17



The Spirit will guide you into all truth, help you to obey me, and empower you to do my work

John 16:7, 13; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:16



As you seek me and see more of my glory, l am transforming you into the image of my Son

2 Corinthians 3:18; Exodus 33:18



One day you will be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet sound

1 Corinthians 15:52



When Jesus appears, you will be like him, because you shall see him as he is

1 John 3:2; Romans 8:29



You will be delivered from your body of death through Jesus Christ, and your dwelling place will be with me

Romans 7:24-25; John 14:3



And I will wipe away every tear from your eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore

Revelation 21:3–4



You will drink from the spring of the water of life without payment, and I myself will make for you a feast of rich food and well-aged wine

Revelation 21:6; Isaiah 25:6



You will enter my rest, inherit the kingdom l've prepared for you, and step into fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore

Hebrews 4:9–11; Matthew 25:34; Psalm 16:11



But most of all, you will see my face and be with me where I am

Revelation 22:4; John 14:3



Therefore, walk in a manner worthy of your calling





You are no longer darkness, but light in my Son. Walk as children of light





You are the light of the world, a city set on a hill





have called you





have chosen you





You are now a saint, a servant, a steward, and a soldier

Romans 1:7; Acts 26:16; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Timothy 2:3



You are a witness and a worker

Acts 1:8; Ephesians 2:10



Through Jesus you are victorious





You have a glorious future





You are a citizen of heaven





You are an ambassador for my Son



