

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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## SERMON TITLE

Who Do You Think You Are? (part 3)

## SERIES

Who Do You Think You Are?

## DATE

6/20/2021

## KEY SCRIPTURE

Rom. 8; 1 Jn. 5; 2 Tim. 1

## SYNOPSIS

Scripture has a lot to say about who we are in Christ. Knowing who you really are is encouraging and inspiring for your walk with God.

## HIGHLIGHTS



## ☛ Who do you think you are?

When you don't understand your true identity, it's easy to get caught up in all kinds of misuse and abuse. It's like the dinglehopper from "The Little Mermaid." A fork is not meant to be used for brushing hair.

You need to know who you are! From last week:

**You are a child of God.** He's your dad, spiritually. He protects and provides for his kids.

**You are a friend of Christ.** He shares his secrets with his friends.

**You are part of the body of Christ.** There is great variety of parts, but all are needed to form a unified, single body. We need each other.

**You are God's masterpiece.** You're a new creation in Christ. From your perspective, life may seem a mess, but from God's perspective, he's making a work of art.

**You are redeemed.** God paid the ransom to set you free from sin. You are free and forgiven.

**You are an heir of God.** There is an incredible inheritance kept for us in heaven. We receive eternal life and immortality and ultimately, the kingdom of God is ours.

Here's more for today. Who do you think you are? Who you are:

**You are no longer condemned.**

**Romans 8:1**

**Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,**

Since you have been redeemed, forgiven and set free, you are a child of God, his masterpiece and you are not condemned. When Christ died on that cross, he condemned sin so that we could be free and he enables us to live a righteous life. (Rom. 8:2-4) So, we are not condemned.

The enemy certainly wants to condemn you and he will take every opportunity to make you feel condemned. But that is not from God. The Holy Spirit may bring conviction, a sense of shame and guilt, when we sin, but that is only to steer us back onto the right track. We are not condemned.

Thoughts like, "you'll never amount to anything; you can't do anything right; you're a complete failure..." are from the enemy. God says, "you are not condemned; you're my child; you're becoming everything I want you to be..."

This is one many struggle with, myself included. In fact, I don't need much help to condemn myself. I'm my own worst critic. When I mess up, I beat myself up. When I sin, I tend to wallow in the guilt too long. I have to remind myself that I am no longer condemned. God is the Father of the Prodigal just waiting eagerly for us to return to him. You are no longer condemned.

**You are a conqueror.**

**Romans 8:37**

**in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**



More than conquerors = lit., hypernikao. Hyper Victory. Since you are in Christ, you have the ultimate victory, and cannot be defeated.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. (v. 26). He intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. God, the Father listens because the Spirit prays according to his will. (v. 27). And, God himself, works in us for our good. He always has our best in mind. (v. 28). He is conforming us into the likeness of Christ. (v. 29). Will Christ be defeated? Neither will we as we remain in Christ. You are a conqueror.

v. 31... if God is for you, who can be against you? Jesus is also interceding for us. (v. 34) There is nothing that can get in the way of God's love for you. No trouble is too much for God. With the power of Christ in us, we can withstand any hardship or persecution. Even if demonic forces come against us or any power in creation attacks, we can overcome. Nothing can separate us from God's love. (v. 38-39). Even in death, we are overcomers, because Jesus conquered death. (2 Tim. 1:10). That means we can live forever. No matter what comes, we win, because God wins. You are a conqueror.

*You're an overcomer  
Stay in the fight 'til the final round  
You're not goin' under  
'Cause God is holding you right now  
You might be down for a moment  
Feelin' like it's hopeless  
That's when He reminds you  
That you're an overcomer*

**You are covered.**

**1 John 5:18**

**We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.**

John is talking about the extremes here. He is not saying that we never sin. If that were the case, I don't think there's anyone I've ever met that has been born of God. In fact, in 1:8 he says if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves. So, here he is saying that those born of God do not continually, willfully persist in sinful behaviors.

And, he's not saying the evil one cannot influence us or affect us in any way at all. We know that the enemy can bring temptations and troubles our way. But ultimately, he cannot win.

1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.



Can Satan defeat Jesus? There was a time when he thought he did, but he was wrong. What he thought was victory was actually his ultimate defeat when Jesus died on the cross, but did not stay dead. He rose again, conquering death, hell and the grave. He's greatest of all time.

1 John 5:4-5

everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

You are a conqueror and you are covered. You have the Spirit of God living in you and he will never be defeated. The enemy has no hold on you. You are covered.

**You are capable.**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

We generally focus on the part about no fear or about having a sound mind, and those are great. But it also says we have a spirit of power from God.

Power = dunamis; the dynamite power of God; strength; ability

Since God's Spirit resides within, you are capable of much more than you ever thought. You have the ability to see the work of God going on in the world when others may be completely oblivious.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

1 Corinthians 2:4

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power

You have the ability to share the truth of the gospel with others which can transform lives.

Philippians 4:11-13

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

So many things become possible with the power of God in you. You can be content and at peace in any situation. His strength enables you to overcome all kinds of adversity. But that's not all...



### 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

### 1 Corinthians 12:6-7

God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. 7 Each person is given something to do that shows who God is... MSG

The Holy Spirit gives out good gifts to all of the Lord's people. He has called us all into ministry. We all have something to offer that will display God's power. You can pray for the sick and watch them be healed. You can hear a word from the Lord and share it with others to encourage or motivate. These spiritual gifts are not just for the special few; they are for everyone. You are capable.

If you don't feel or think that you are capable, then begin by asking God to enable you. Next time you're in a situation where someone needs prayer, ask God to give you the ability to help them. He can use you to give wise counsel, to heal, or to perform a miracle. You are capable.

Who do you think you are?

You are no longer condemned. You are free and don't have to sin anymore.

You are a conqueror. When you are weak, God is strong. He is interceding for you.

You are covered. God is watching over you and the enemy cannot defeat you.

You are capable. God empowers you to do his work. You can do all things through Christ.