

2/15/2026

Who Am I?

FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

NATHAN SHARPES

HOUSEKEEPING

- Good morning everyone, my name is Nathan Sharpes, and I'm one of the Elders here at CrossRoads Community Church.
- Pastor Bob and Ginnie are visiting family in Alabama this weekend. So it brings me great joy to have the privilege of bringing you the message this morning, and to honor the Bullis family by giving them time together.
- If you have your Bible with you, please turn to the book of Galatians.
- If you don't have your Bible with you, you need to bring it with you. You shouldn't take for granted that have the freedom to have access to God's Word. You should study what we go over today, again on your own later, 1) to verify that what we teach is true, and 2) so that you can teach your family, and others, whatever that may look like. That is the expectation, that Sunday morning isn't the only time during the week that you interact with these verses.
 - If you do not own a Bible, please come see me after service. There is no shortage of English translations of the Bible, which is a great blessing, but it can often be a little overwhelming in deciding what to choose if you're new to reading and studying the Bible on your own.
 - But in any event, as an aid, the references will be up on the screens as well.

INTRODUCTION

- I'll be reading from Galatians chapter 2 starting in verse 14. Before I do that, a little bit of context.
 - Galatians, was one of, if not the first epistles of the New Testament. An "epistle" being the literary term for a book that's written in the form of a letter. I think that because the Apostle Paul spends much of the first chapter and half of Galatians establishing himself as an Apostle, specifically an apostle to the gentiles, while Peter was an apostle to the Jews.
 - In the first years of Christianity, there was debate over how Jewish you had to be to be a Christians. It was agreed upon, or rather simply recognized, by the Apostles early on that God had meant the offer of salvation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was for everyone. Christianity was and is for the gentiles, that's a word for anyone not Jewish, as well as the Jews.
 - But there was still debate over if the Gentiles had to follow "The Law", that is the customs and commandments of the Old Testament. The answer is, "No.", Christ fulfilled The Law, but there were still those who we call Judaizers, who insisted on this idea, that the law must still be followed.
 - It was these Judaizers who'd follow Paul around on his missionary journeys to oppose him, and this was the apparent occasion for the writing of Galatians, that some Judaizers had come along after Paul founded some churches in Galatia and were succeeding in teaching "a different gospel" as Paul calls it, one based on works rather than our identity in Christ.

- But there was another Jewish custom causing division and that was Jews not eating with Gentiles. There's no specific commandment to not eat with the Gentiles in the Old Testament, but you could probably understand how that tradition would come about with the ritual cleanliness commandments, the abstaining from eating certain animals, the commands not to intermarry, that practically speaking it would be difficult for a Jew to eat with a Gentile, such that eventually it just became the custom to avoid eating with them, which would then morph into it being detestable to eat with a Gentile. I mean it was big deal for all of the nation of Isreal's history to be different from the Gentiles.
 - But as Paul would write later on in Chapter 3 of Galatians that there's no longer "Jew or [Gentile]", in God's eyes that is, that we "are all one in Christ Jesus".
- So it's the early church, Jews and Gentiles alike are accepting salvation in Christ, everyone is of one spirit, and Paul and Peter are ministering in Antioch, which is a city north of Israel, near where modern day Turkey borders Syria on the Mediterranean coast. Everyone was eating together, that is until some Jews came to visit that hadn't quite accepted that Gentiles could be part of the whole Jesus thing, and Peter starts to separate himself, only eating those Jews, and the other Jews in the Antioch church followed Peter's example and separated themselves too, and soon you had a divided church. Not good...
- Therefore, Paul confronts Peter's hypocrisy starting in the latter half of Galatians 2:14, saying:
 - **Galatians 2:14b (ESV)**: ...If you [Peter], though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?
 - **Galatians 2:15 (ESV)**: We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners;
 - And I think given the context I just described that if the Greek language had air quotes that there'd be air quotes around "Gentile sinners", because Peter was treating non-Jewish people differently, as if they were less than, like they were sinners and he wasn't. Though Peter had been happy to not follow the Jewish dietary customs for some time, now that his old friends showed up he started acting the old way, the way that presumed one could get right standing with God by following all the regulations of the Law, plus some more to really make sure you didn't even accidentally break the Old Testament Law. But Paul reminds Peter, and the Galatians church, and us today, that...
- **Galatians 2:16 (ESV)**: yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.
 - In other words, Paul introduces an equation here that goes something like this: Its Christ, plus nothing, equals justification. It's nothing we could ever

do, plus everything Christ did, equals right standing with God. It's not I did good enough, and followed all the rules enough, and did more good things than bad things... its not behavior based, rather it says "by works...no one will be justified." Its only through "faith in Jesus Christ".

- Paul goes on in verse 17:
- **Galatians 2:17 (ESV): But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not!**
- **Galatians 2:18 (ESV): For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor.**
 - That is to say that its not Jesus' fault if we sin after being justified, that doesn't mean Jesus is a servant of sin, it means that if I go back to my old ways of trying earn right standing with God through my own efforts, with good behavior, then I only prove myself as a transgressor, and only prove why I needed Christ in the first place. Verse 19
- **Galatians 2:19 (ESV): For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.**
 - Now getting into our focus verse for today, Paul expands on this statement in verse 20...
- **Galatians 2:20 (ESV): I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**
 - There's a lot of "I's" in those verses. We'll be unpacking what "I" means in terms of our identity, but first verse 21 to finish the chapter
- **Galatians 2:21 (ESV): I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.**
 - Paul again hammers on the point that, by whatever means, if you could attain righteousness through your own efforts, that's what is meant by the references to "through the law", that would in effect nullify grace and consequently Christ died for nothing. We know that's not true, but we don't always live like it.
- My God add a blessing to the reading and the hearing of his holy word.
- The main thing I want to emphasize today is the point of our identity, and I'll start with this. There's a children's book author named Sandra Boynton. The series of books she's authored is self-described as "Serious silliness for cool little kids". Perhaps you've heard of such titles as "Dinosaur Dance", "But not the Hippopotamus", "Moo, Baa, La La La!" and [holds it up] "Are You A Cow?".
 - Now I happen to have a cool little kid, my daughter Eliana, she's one and half now if you can believe it, and she does take her silliness very seriously. So to illustrate a point, I'd like to you read you "Are You A Cow".
 - "Hey I'm a chicken yes its true tell me tell me what are you? Are you cow? No. Are you a dog? No. Are you a duck? No. Are you a frog? No. Are you a lamb? No. Perhaps a pig? Nope. You're not a hippo. You are small. They are big. Are you a bear who does not frown?

No. Are you a chicken upside-down? No. Are you a penguin? You're not? But wait! You must be YOU! Now isn't that great!"

- And if you're wondering, yes Eliana does giggle and point to herself when we get to the "You must be You!" page. And it is adorable.
- I like this book. Whether the author knew it or not, it teaches Genesis chapter 2 that that we are distinct from the animals and God made us collectively with a purpose, and each of us individually with a specific purpose in that broader plan. Perhaps you've heard it said, "You've got to be 'you', everyone else is taken." Well I'd say you must be you, because that's how God made you, and that's why you exists, and its good that you exist, because God said so.
 - So you get the point that you're, you, but so far we've only kind of gotten there by process of elimination. You're not any of the plants or animals, and you're not any other person, but that doesn't get you to an identity of who YOU are. So lets pull on that thread.
- Getting back to our focus verse Galatians 2:20:
- **Galatians 2:20 (ESV)**: **I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**
 - I've been in the Church my whole life, but I'll admit it's only been perhaps in the past few months that by various means I think I've come to understand this verse. Its come up in several different contexts for me, enough so that I've learned that that's probably God prompting me to take a closer look.
 - Like I said I grew up in the Church, and this is kind of a famous verse, so I've heard it a lot, and I thought I got it. Like, ok Christ lives in me. I know I got the Holy Spirit when I was saved. The Holy Spirit is God. Christ is also God, so I guess that checks out. And now I'm living by faith in the Son of God, that's Jesus, I'm on board with that. And I guess I just kind of never really considered, in any deep way, what "I have been crucified with Christ" meant.
 - Christ was crucified in 33AD. I was born in 1989AD. I wasn't at the crucifixion, much less a participant.
 - The Apostle Paul, who wrote Galatians, was alive during the crucifixion, but the bible only says there were two other guys crucified alongside Jesus and Paul wasn't one of them. So what does he mean when he says that he was crucified with Christ?
 - If you asked me a year ago what that meant, I probably would have said that it was to be understood figuratively. Something like how Galatians 5:24 says: **Galatians 5:24 (ESV)**: **And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**
 - In this verse, it's clear that crucifying the flesh is not something done to the believer, but by the believer. And we'll get into what is meant

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by “the flesh”, but for now what I want you to notice is that in Galatians 2:20 the action is being done to the believer- “I have been” is the language used vs “those who belong to Christ have” in Galatians 5:24.

- They’re talking about two different things then, these two verses. To keep it short, Galatians 2:20 is talking about salvation, and 5:24 is talking about sanctification, the process after salvation where we, having the Holy Spirit in us, become more like Christ in our behavior.
- So to get back to the point, when Galatians 2:20 says “I have been crucified with Christ”, I don’t think its figuratively speaking, I think it is to be understood literally, and I’ll tell you why.

I (BODY, SOUL, SPIRIT) HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

- I’ll start with Scripture. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 says:
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV): Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- We’re multi-part beings. Even those of you here today who aren’t believers, I think would agree with that there’s parts of us that are material, namely our bodies, but there’s something more to it than that, a part of us that is immaterial. You could call it consciousness, or whatever you wish, but I’d maintain it plainly obvious that we are more than a tremendously complex set of chemical reactions.
- Concepts like morality cannot exist in a framework, in a worldview, where our identity is reduced simply to the physical. There is free will, choice, thought, emotions... that all goes beyond molecules bumping into one another. I’ll call all that which make up us that’s immaterial, I’ll call that our soul.
- And I’m preaching in a Christian church, so no surprise when I say I do believe in God, and that he has chosen to reveal himself to us through Scripture, and that Scripture says that “God is spirit” (John 4:24) and that, for the Christian, “God’s Spirit dwells in [us]” (1 Corinthians 3:16).
- So there’s the three parts of us, body, soul, and spirit. This concept is known as “trichotomy”. Literally meaning to consist of three parts.
 - Now I’ll say off time top, that this concept of trichotomy isn’t strictly biblical. Not that I’m up here teaching heresy, but what I mean is that I don’t know if our structure is exactly the way I’m going to present it, Scripture isn’t totally clear on this, but to the best of my knowledge and understanding of scripture, I’ll present what I hope is a useful way to think about all that is makes up what is “us”, that is our identity.
 - And you don’t need to know any of this, really, to be saved. If you see it differently, for example there a whole opposing opinion of dichotomy, which would say that we’re body and soul/spirit being the same thing. If based on your examination of scripture you see it differently that’s fine. Again I’m

presenting it the best I know how, in a way that gets to our identity and what it means that “I have been crucified with Christ”.

- So collectively I’ll say “you”, as a whole identity, consist of body, soul, and spirit. I’ll present it here with three concentric rings that together represent “you”.
- **The body** is the physical part of you. It is the only temporal part of you. The soul, once created, exists on into eternity, and the Spirit always was, but our bodies are temporary. The body, has the five senses (taste, touch, hearing, smell, and vision) that take in information, information that’s stored in the brain, and then actioned through the members of the body.
- **The soul** is what I’d call the biggest part of “you”, what really makes you who you are, uniquely. The body, I’d say is a neutral observer, taking in, storing, and actioning information. So if our brain stores information, it is really through our emotions that we process that information and consider it in our mind, coming to conclusions, to then store a memory in the brain. You’ll recognize that it’s the memories that have the highest emotional content, or things we think on often, that tend to get remembered. But it is then the human will, our free will, that then causes the body to action. Processed emotions, abstracted in the mind, form a desire, a will, that the soul then communicates to the body to manifest the will.
- **The spirit** is the most important part of us. The presence or absence of which determines, in the most essential sense, our identity. There two options here; there’s the lack of spirit you were born with, that’s what the Bible call being “in Adam” or having a sin nature. Those “in Adam” attempt to fill the void in their spirit from the outside in with things of the world that lead to death. The other option is, by faith, believing in God, accepting the sacrifice of Jesus, and receiving the Holy Spirit in you, is to be “in Christ”. Those “in Christ” are filled with the Spirit which radiates life to the soul, manifesting in the fruits of the Spirit we see in the body.
- With this understanding, looping back to the claim I made earlier that when Galatians 2:20 says “I have been crucified with Christ”, that it was to be taken literally, I say that because it was you, your spirit, your previous identity, if in fact you are a Christian, your spirit “in Adam”, you sin nature, Christ took on himself, and was Crucified on the cross.
- It was nothing you did, that’s why the language is “I have been”, meaning something happened to you. It doesn’t say “I am” or “I was”, rather “I have been”.
 - Grammatically that’s called the present perfect tense, in other words it’s a phrasing referring to a past event that has ongoing present consequences. You in your natural spirit, the one you inherited from your father, who got it from your grandfather, and so on and so on all the way back to Adam, who was made in the image of God, meaning he was created with the Spirit already, lost that innate access to God in The Fall, when Adam and Eve committed the original sin of thinking they could decide for themselves what was right and wrong, essentially deciding to be independent from God- a sin that all of us were born into and have repeated and were doomed to repeat, until we repent and receive the new nature, that is “Christ in me”.

- The fall of man is recorded in Genesis chapter 3, but this change in nature, or likeness, or you could say change in identity is in Genesis chapter 5. I'll admit I've read Genesis plenty of times, but until recently just breezed right over this.
 - [Genesis 5:1 \(ESV\)](#): **This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.**
 - [Genesis 5:2 \(ESV\)](#): **Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man** ["Adam" is the Hebrew for "man"] **when they were created.**
 - [Genesis 5:3 \(ESV\)](#): **When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.**
- Did you catch it? We often hear verses 1 and 2, that "we're made in the image [or likeness] of God" and "Male and female he created them", but look at this in verse 3, that Adam fathered Seth in his own likeness, not in the likeness of God, meaning from Seth down to Noah, and then to the rest of humanity all the way to present day, we're born without the Spirit in us.
 - As a side note, that's why it is emphasized so heavily that Jesus was born of a virgin. Jesus didn't have an earthly father to receive a sin nature from, rather being born of the Spirit, he was able to lead the sinless life that none of us, by nature, were capable of.
 - So we're not born in the image of God, which is why we must be born again in the image of God, that is to receive God's Spirit in us.
- So when Jesus hung on the cross, and died, you, in a very literal sense, were there in your sin nature, in your hopefully former spirit you were there that day. And it was your sin nature that was crucified.
- Second Corinthians 5:21 says:
 - [2 Corinthians 5:21 \(ESV\)](#): **For our sake he [that is God] made him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**
 - It says Jesus became sin. He knew no sin, because he wasn't born "in Adam" with a sin nature, and he lived a perfect life, such that he was able and available (*avail-able*) to become sin, not just take on our sins, but to become the essence of sin itself, so that it could be put to death, and overcome through the resurrection, such that our sin no longer has power over us.
- So our old self, our old identity as a sinner, was crucified with Christ, and now we get a new life, in Christ. Indeed, we've even become- that's a statement of identity, we have become the righteousness of God, having Christ in us as our identity.

NO LONGER I, BUT CHRIST IN ME

- That's what the next part of Galatians 2:20 is talking about, when it says "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."
 - We tend to focus on the cross, and rightly so, that's where sin was atoned for, but if that was the end of the story, we'd still be lost. If all we ever

received was the mercy of the cross, that is Jesus taking the punishment we deserved, well that's great, but we'd still be in a hopeless state.

- In 1 Corinthians chapter 15 it says that:
- **1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV): And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.**
- **1 Corinthians 15:18 (ESV): Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.**
- **1 Corinthians 15:19 (ESV): If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.**
 - That's what Galatians 2:18 was saying when it says "if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor". Christ died for my sins, that's awesome, but in all likelihood I'll go and sin again. If my sins are forgiven and that's it, then no matter how good I think my intentions are, I'm just going to go back and rebuild my sinful life. Then what? Scripture's pretty clear there's only one Christ. There's not going to be another Christ.
 - I believe that's what God was showing us through the Old Testament law, the sacrificial system Israel had to follow, that if sacrifice for sin was the answer, it had to be done again and again and again every time you sinned. There had to be something else to free us, and there was...
- **1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV): But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**
 - And when it says "fallen asleep", that means died. But in the Scripture written by Paul, he so emphasizes the point that the death of our bodies is not end of our existence, and so emphasizes the point that we'll be resurrected that he calls what we'd call death, as just falling asleep, because its temporary.
- **1 Corinthians 15:21 (ESV): For since death came through a man [that is Adam], the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man [that is the man Jesus Christ].**
- **1 Corinthians 15:22 (ESV): For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.**
- We have been made alive in Christ. We need the mercy of the cross and the grace of the resurrection. Without the resurrection, as Scripture says, our faith is meaningless. Praise God for his mercy and grace.
- You've probably heard Christians say something like, "I'm a sinner saved by grace". I used to admire the simplicity of such a statement. But I take it back. It's improper for the Christian to refer to themselves in the present tense as a sinner. That's no longer your identity. While you may sin from time to time, it is no longer in your nature to sin.

- Rather than “I’m a sinner saved by grace” the Christian could more correctly align with their identity by saying, “I was a sinner, who has been saved by God’s mercy and grace.”
 - If you’re saved, Scripture says you are a “Child of God”, which is why the bible also calls Christians “Brethren”, that is brother and sisters in Christ. The bible also calls us “disciples”, “Saints”, and “Believers”.
 - That’s your identity. That’s how we’re supposed to live.

THE LIFE I NOW LEAD, BY FAITH

- That’s the next part of Galatians 2:20, “And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God”.
- So you’re a Saint, by identity, no longer a sinner, by identity. But you are a Saint who happens to sin. So what’s the difference? Faith is the difference.
- Have you ever sinned and felt bad about it? I’d hope so. It feels bad when you sin, because you’re acting in a way that’s not in alignment with your nature, your new nature that is. You have your new spirit, Christ in us, leading you in the paths of righteousness, and then there are the carnal desires pulling you in the other direction.
- The New Testament calls these carnal desires, that are in opposition to the leading of the Spirit, “the flesh”. I brought up Galatians chapter 5 earlier. That chapter talks extensively about how the desires of “the flesh” are against “the Spirit” and what the works of the flesh are compared to the fruits of the Spirit.
- While the same word for “flesh” is used in Galatians 2 as it is in Galatians 5, the context of Galatians 2:20 tells us that “flesh” here just means the physical body.
 - So, “...the life I now live in the body I live by faith...”, meaning, alright, I have a new nature now, God is somehow literally part of my identity, but I’m still living this physical life, albeit by faith that I’ve been made new in the Spirit. That life you’re now living by faith, is called sanctification.
- **Hebrews 10:14 (ESV): For by a single offering [that was Christ on the cross] **he** [Jesus] **has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified** [mean becoming more like Jesus].**
- You’ve been perfected, Scripture says, by the work Jesus. Being perfect in the biblical context doesn’t mean you never sin, rather it means being complete.
 - I said earlier that Christians feel bad when they sin because it’s against their nature. The unbelievers, those still “in Adam”, don’t feel bad when they sin. It’s in their nature to sin because there’s nothing in them, namely the Spirit, to convict them. There’s a hole, a void, in their identity where the Spirit is meant to be. They are incomplete. They’ve not been perfected. And as Aristotle said, “Nature abhors a vacuum”, so instead of finding their identity in Christ, from within, they look from without, to the world and all the temporary pleasures of it, to try to fill the void. But it can’t be done by physical means. If it could, as we already read in Galatians 2:21, “...then Christ died for nothing.”

- How you view yourself is so important. There's great anxiety in the unbeliever's soul, because they have a problem in their spirit that they can't solve. In the same way, there's great anxiety in the Believer's soul when you view yourself differently from how God does.
- Christ through his death and resurrection has defeated sin and given you life. So why don't we always feel like it? We'll I'll ask you this, "How can an inferior force defeat a superior force?" It can only happen if the superior force either does nothing or weakens itself.
 - Satan is inferior to God. So to oppose God, that's what Enemy tries to get us to do, either to get us to do nothing or weaken our identity.
 - In that, one of the chief strategies of the Enemy is to make us weary and heavy laden, to make us so focused on other cares that we forget our identity, to make us not feel like we are who we are in Christ, and that's when we're vulnerable to doubt and defeat. That's why you have to be so diligent in your sanctification, unshakable in your faith, and sure of your identity, so that even when you don't feel like it you don't forget who you are, or rather who's you are. You belong to Christ.
 - Ask yourself this. In what part of my identity am I weary and heavy laden? It's not in the Spirit. God doesn't tire. He holds the universe together. Maybe you say the body, but that's transient. Weary and heavy laden are emotions, and we emote in our souls.
 - Jesus said in Matthew chapter 11.
- **Matthew 11:28 (ESV)**: **Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**
- **Matthew 11:29 (ESV)**: **Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**
- **Matthew 11:30 (ESV)**: **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**
- Jesus said you can find rest for your souls in Him. It's exhausting for the soul to be looking to the body to bring fulfillment and identity from the world, when fulfillment and identity are meant to be found from Christ in us.

WHO LOVED ME

- But its not just our identity and rest we find in Christ, as if that wouldn't be enough, but we also find love.
- That brings us to the last part of Galatians 2:20, "who loved me and gave himself for me".
 - The first three quarts of Galatians 2:20 tells us what was done for us, who we are, and what we're to do about, but this last segment tells us the motivation... love.
- 1 John 4:16 puts it this way:
 - **1 John 4:16 (ESV)**: **So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us** [a love that's specific, "who loved me" and self-

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sacrificial, "and gave himself for me", Galatians 2:20 tell us]. **God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

- God is love. It's not just that God is loving, as in love is a part of God's character, but God is the essence of what love is. Love does not exist without God, because God is love. Love itself is defined by God's character.
- God is love. Therefore, what's not of God cannot identify as love.

CONCLUSION

- I'll conclude with this as the praise team comes...
- God has made us to need him. There's a void in our spirit that only Christ can fill. We are born with a sin nature, and the condition is terminal. But Jesus made a way where the was no way, no way for us to fix the problem on sin. But the solution to the problem is a simple equation, its Christ plus nothing.
- If you're a Christian, you've not only received forgiveness at the cross, but life in in the grace of Christ's resurrection. Live like you have life and love inside of you. Its your identity. The worst thing we can do is fall into the trap of trying to do it on our own and betray our identity.
- If you not a Christian, all you've got is doing it on your own. All you've got is what the world has to offer. There's a better way. There is rest from your anxiety, and the rest is found in Jesus. There's a void in you, but the word of God does not return void. You can know peace.
- Christ gave His life for us, in order to give His life to us, in order that He might live His Life through us.

PRAYER

Please pray with me.

Father God, I thank you for who you are and what you've done for us. You are love and you saved us and gave us life in you. I pray Lord that I accurately exposit on the meaning of your Holy Word. Wherever I managed to do that, I pray the teaching may be committed to memory. Wherever I strayed from Your Word and inserted my own, I pray forgiveness and that those words would be quickly forgotten, and the Spirit would intercede with correction.

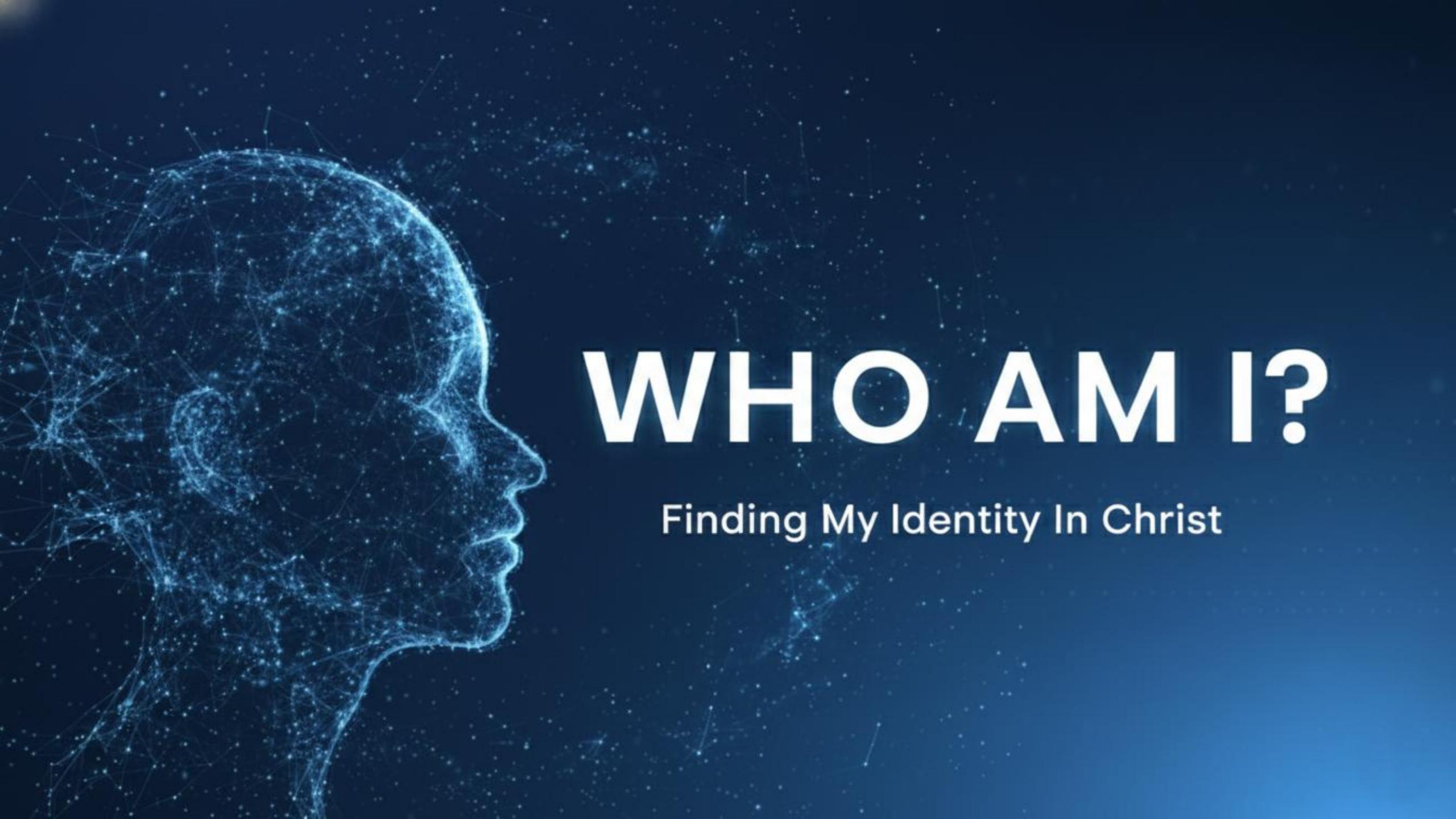
I thank you that our identity can be found in you, and you alone. We don't earn it, not that we ever could. I pray that no matter what we feel that we will cling to our identity in you and not yield any ground to the Evil One. Thank you for your mercy and grace.

Those here today that don't know you, I pray you would frustrate their attempts to cope the emptiness in their Spirit. Call them to you, Lord. In their desperation I pray they would seek you, and they would find you, and find their identity in you. I pray we all would.

God we love you, and we praise your Name. Amen.

RESPONSE SONG INTRODUCTION | HIGHLANDS (SONG OF ASCENT)

- This our time of response. We'll collect the offering as the baskets come around, but what this time is really for is you do consider what you've just heard and do business with God.
- We're going to play a new song to CrossRoads call "Highlands (Song of Ascent)".
- What's a song of ascent? The Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where God's temple stood in Old Testament times, was situated on a high point in the city. The place where the temple singers stayed was not on the mount. So, as the choir were going to the temple to worship God, they would sing some particular songs as they were ascending the mount. Some of these songs are recorded in Psalms 120-134, and are appropriately called "Songs of Ascent".
- As you listen to this song, I want to you to think about your identity in Christ. That your very identity includes Christ in you. Think about the closeness of God, that if you're a believer, you have Christ with you and in you wherever you go. So like a song of ascent was sung in Old Testament times whenever people were ascending the temple mount to go see the LORD, this side of the cross you can always sing a song of ascent because wherever you go you can always be going to see the LORD. He's with you.
- If you're here and you don't know Christ. You can. Nothing stands in the way. No behavior, no past sin, no amount of time or distance, no circumstance. You don't have to climb a mountain or go on a journey. Jesus isn't that hard to find. As you listen to this song, think also about the closeness of God. You were made to be in communion with God. If you're tired trying to do it on your own, tired of trying to fill the void with things of this world... the offer of salvation is extended to you, the debt of sin has been paid. He's right there. Surrender your will to God, accept the forgiveness, and invite the Spirit in.



WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ

WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ

14. ...“If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”
15. We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners;
16. yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ

17. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not!
18. For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor.

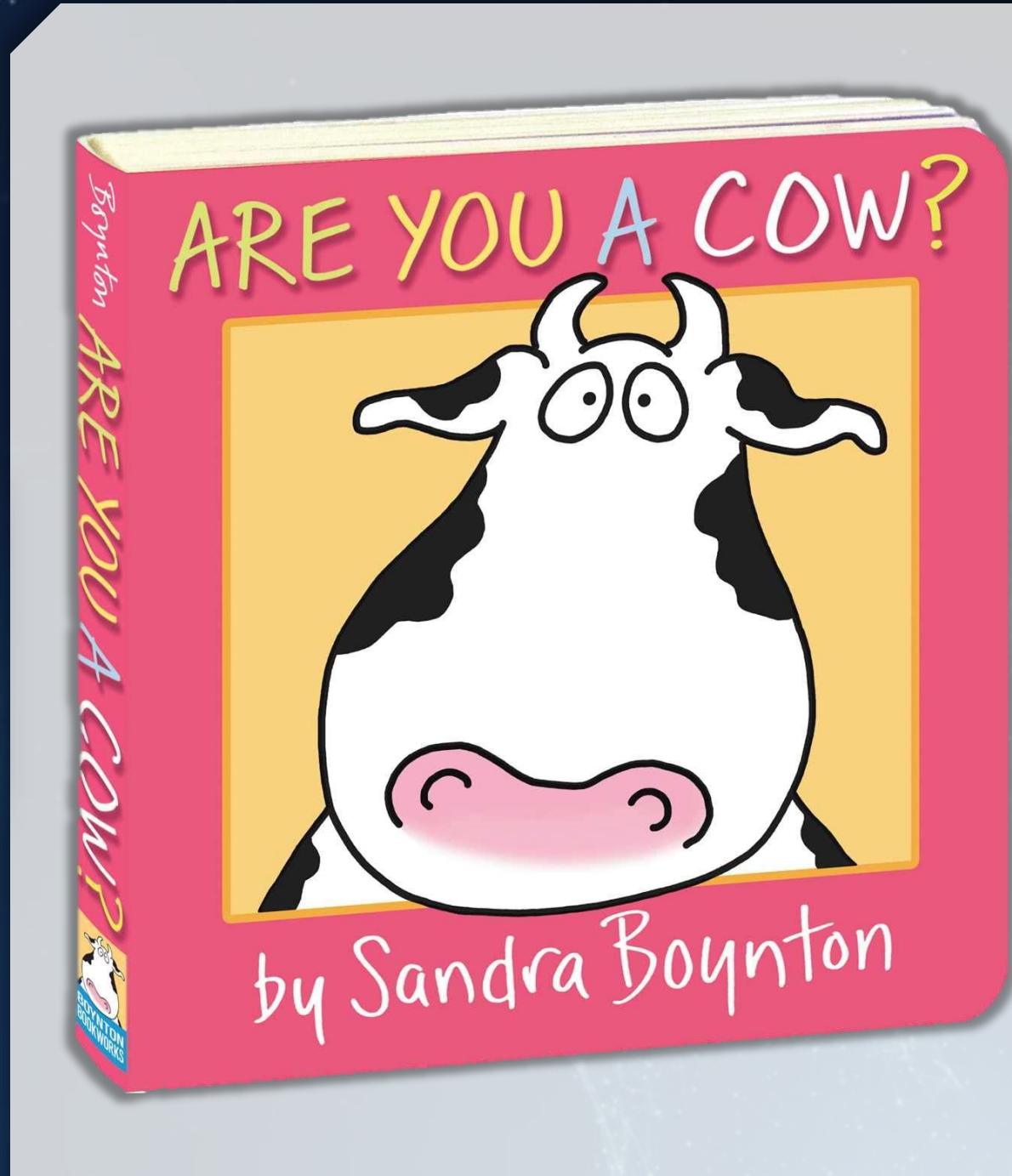
WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ

19. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.
20. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
21. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ



WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ

You must be

YOU!

Now isn't that great!

WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ

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

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

24. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ

WHO AM I?

FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)



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

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

■ **I = Body, Spirit, Soul**

1 Thessalonians 5:23

23. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WHO AM I?

FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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

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WHO AM I?

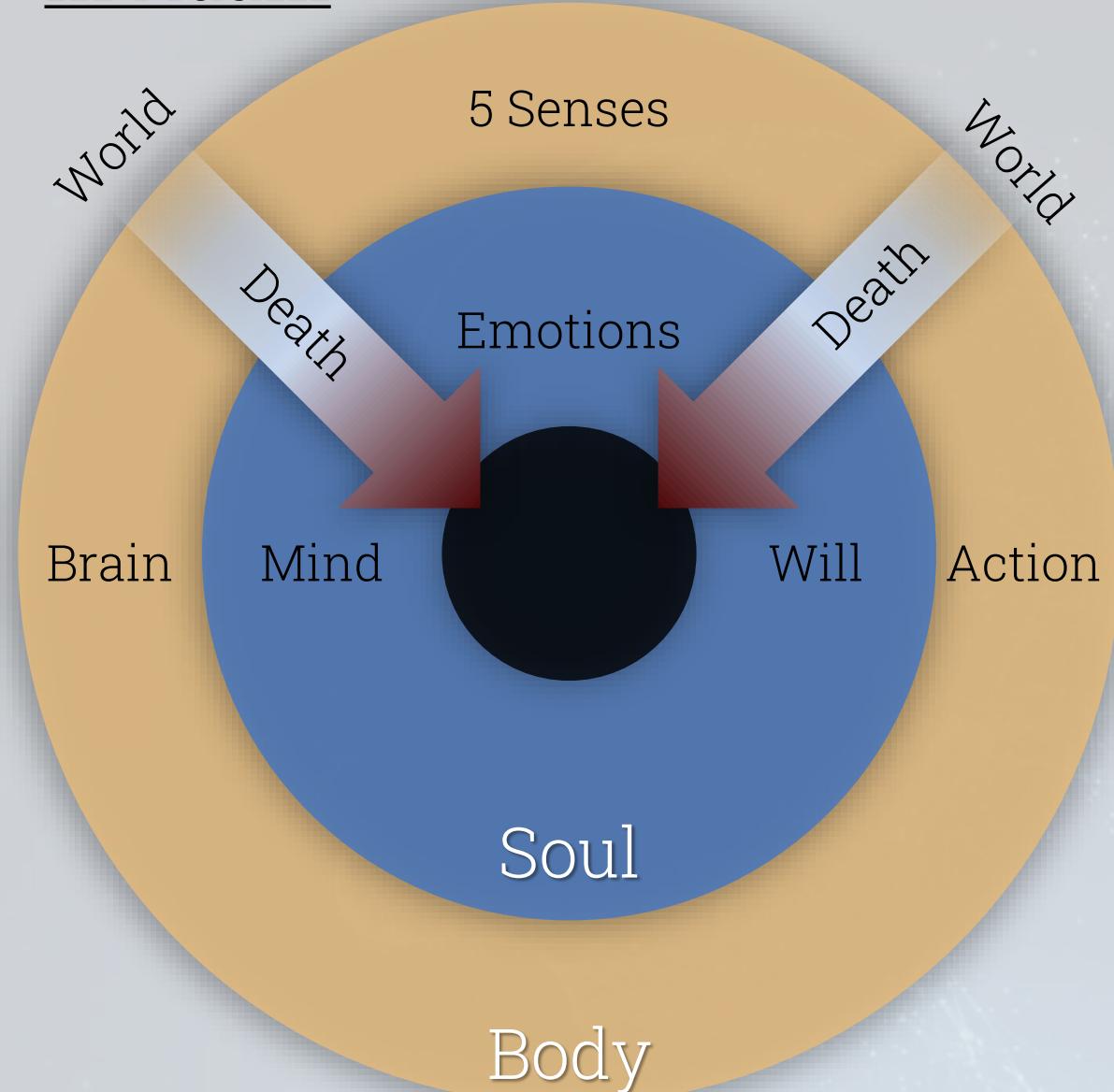
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- **I = Body, Spirit, Soul**
1 Thessalonians 5:23

In Adam



WHO AM I?

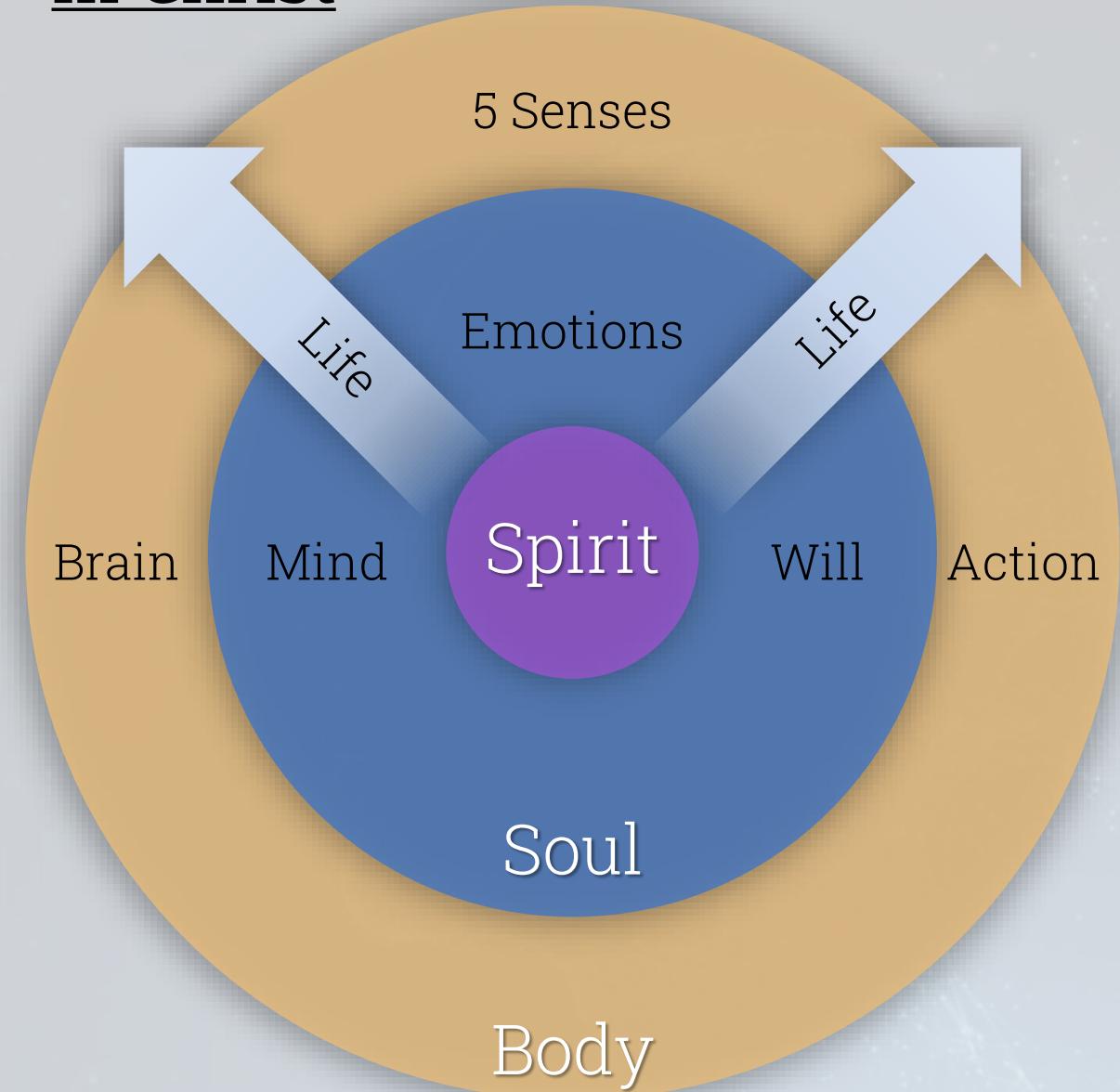
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In Christ



WHO AM I?

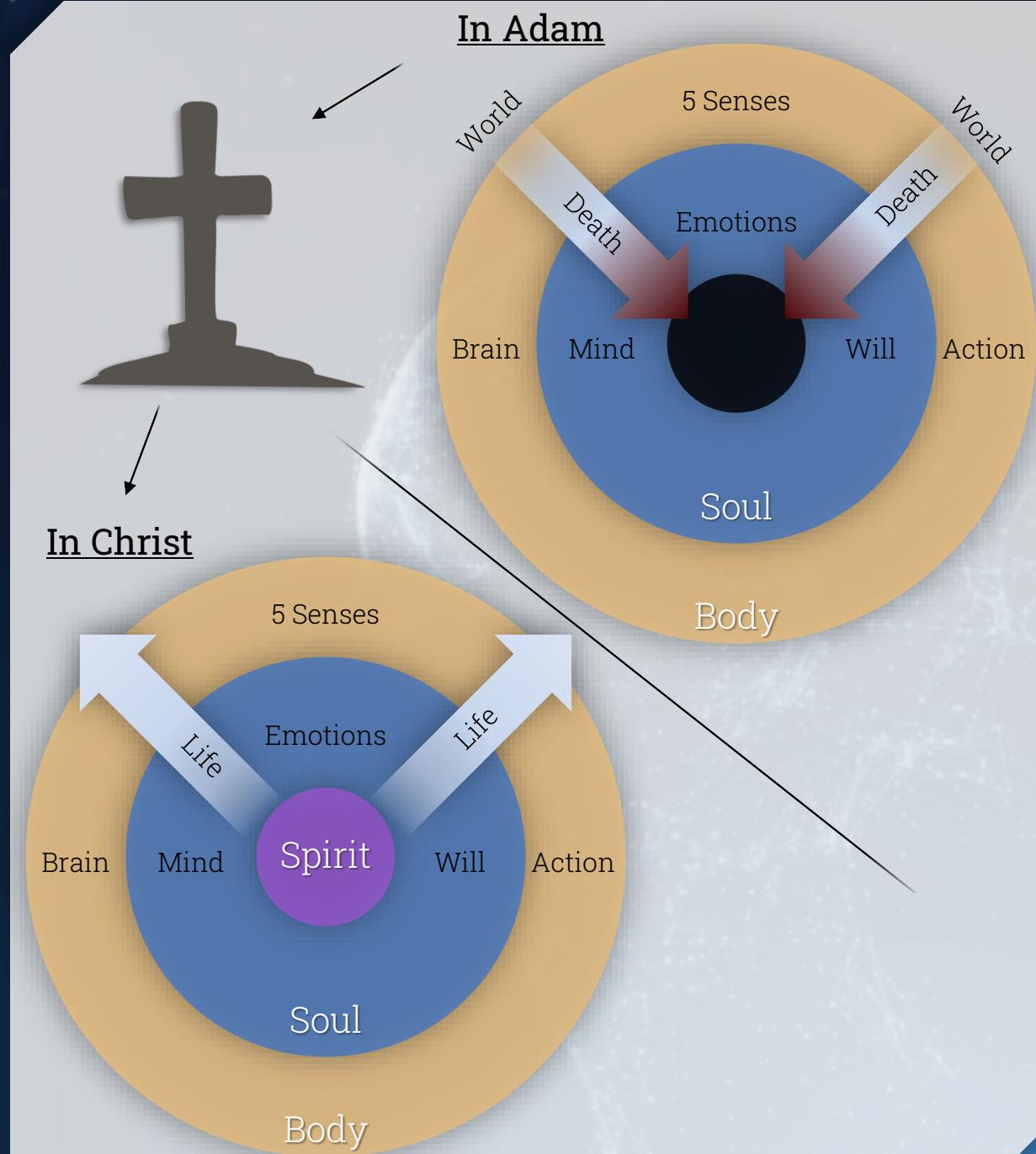
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"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

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

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

- **I = Body, Spirit, Soul**

1 Thessalonians 5:23

- **Likeness Lost**

Genesis 5:1-3

1. This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.
2. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.
3. When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

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

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

- **I = Body, Spirit, Soul**

1 Thessalonians 5:23

- **Likeness Lost**

Genesis 5:1-3

- **Righteousness Recovered**

2 Corinthians 5:21

21. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

WHO AM I?

FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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

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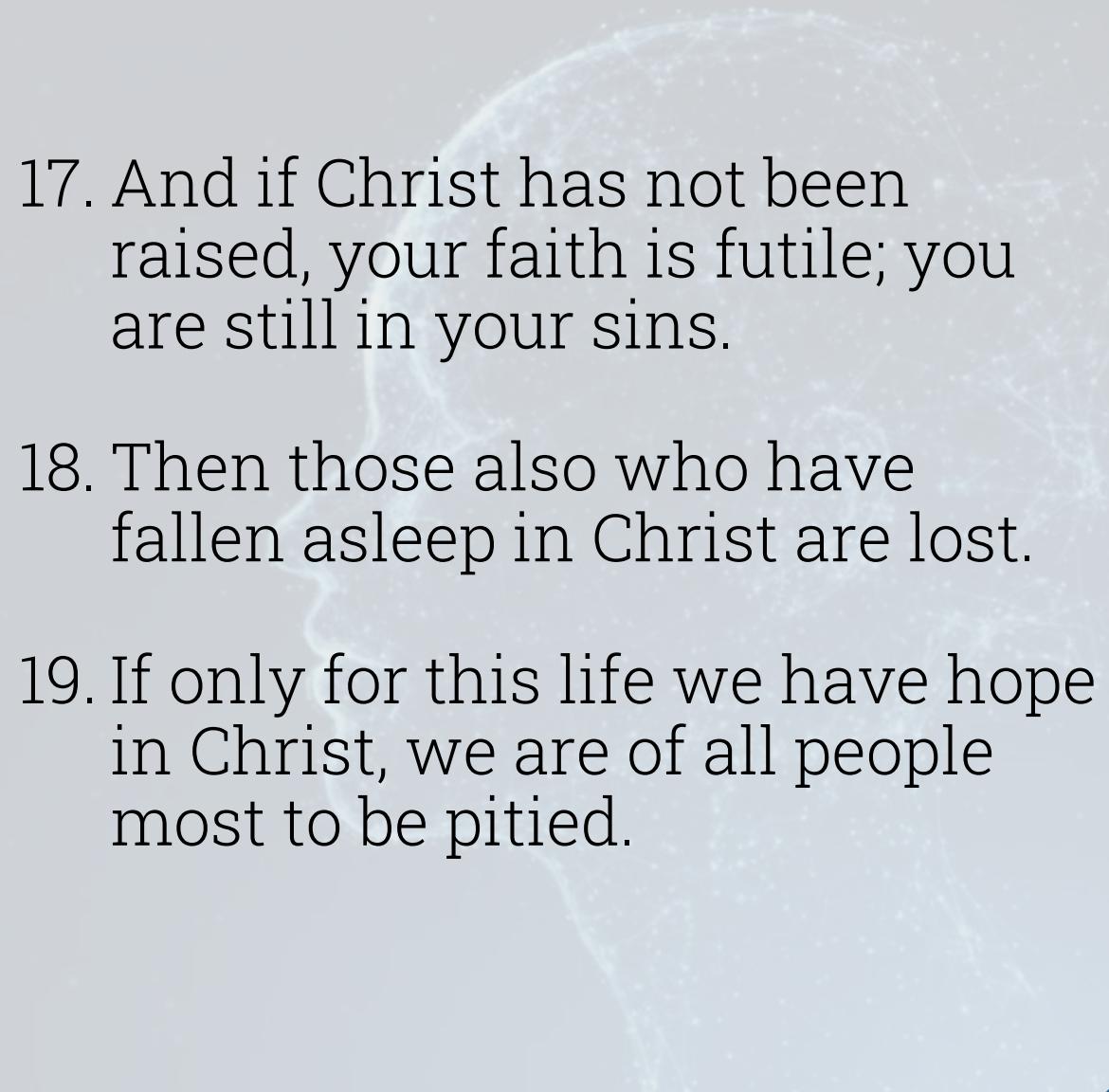


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Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

■ Alive In Christ

1 Corinthians 15:17-22



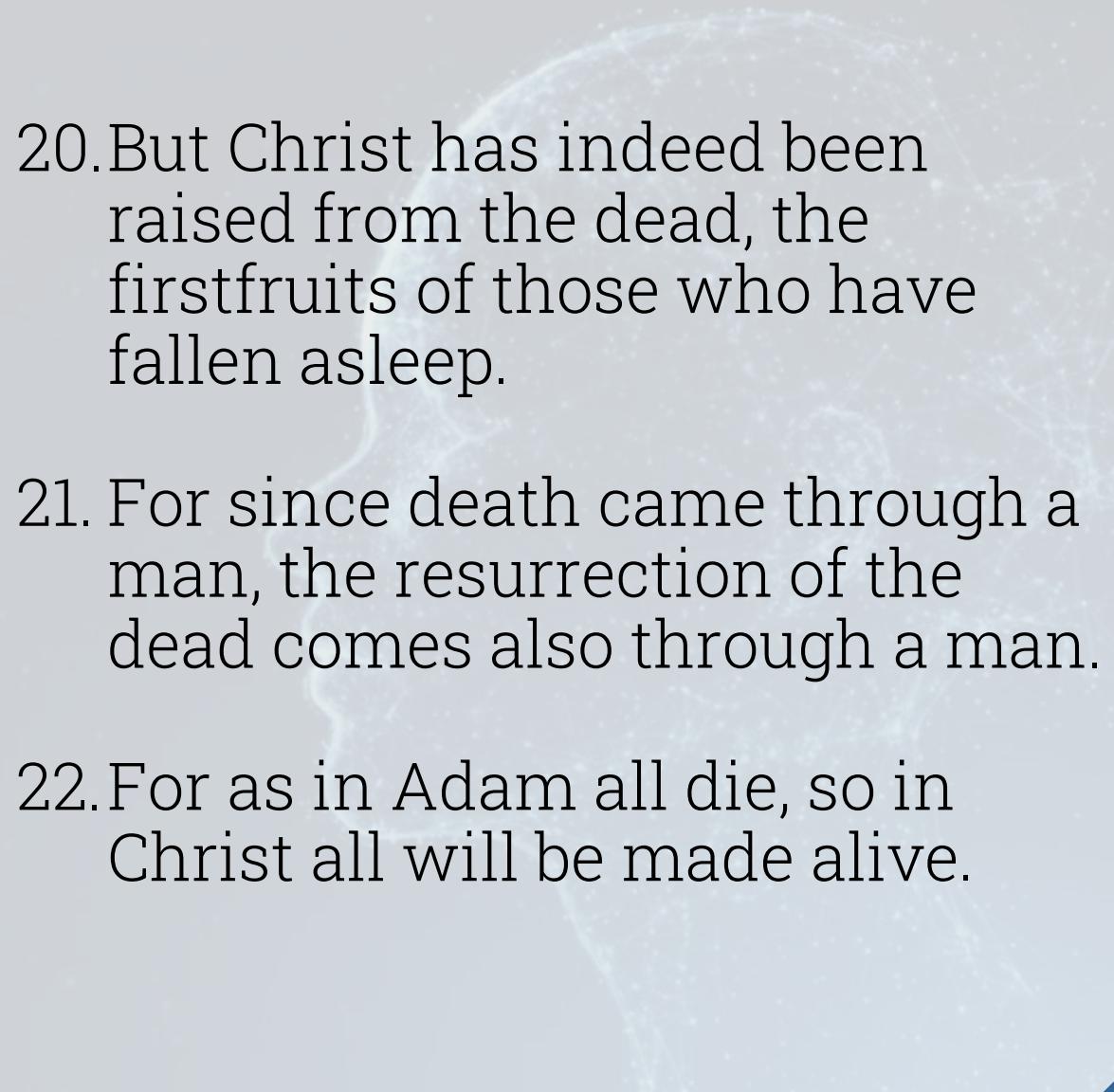
17. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
18. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.
19. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

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

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

■ Alive In Christ

1 Corinthians 15:17-22



20. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
21. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.
22. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

WHO AM I?

FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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

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Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

■ **Sanctification**

Hebrews 10:14

14. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

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

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

■ **Sanctification**

Hebrews 10:14

■ **Rest**

Matthew 11:28-30

28. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

WHO AM I?

FINDING MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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■ God Is Love

1 John 4:16

16. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him

WHO AM I?

Finding My Identity In Christ

1. CHRIST + NOTHING = SALVATION
2. FORGIVENESS AND LIFE
3. REST IN JESUS

CHRIST GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US, IN ORDER TO GIVE HIS LIFE TO US, IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT LIVE HIS LIFE THROUGH US.