

**THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST**

**TOPIC: ACCEPTED**

**TEXT: ROMANS 8:1-3; EPHESIANS 1:6-7**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Your divine nature is who God created you to be and your ultimate identity.

Today's reading tells us that we are accepted in Christ, the Beloved. And because we are in Christ, we are well pleasing to God! Jesus didn't have to do anything or accomplish anything before He was considered beloved and pleasing to the Father. The good news for us today is that our Father in heaven has "made us accepted in the Beloved," and "in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:6-7). This is true for any believer of Jesus.

### **1. Satan's Lie "I am not" vs. God's "I Am"**

Satan does not want us to understand how much God loves us. He distorts our view of ourselves with shame, whispering to us the "I am not \_\_\_\_" lies.

- I am not good or loving enough.
- I am not spiritual enough.
- I am not pure enough.
- I am not honest enough.
- I am not wise enough.
- I am not kind or gentle enough.
- I am not praying or studying the Bible enough.
- I am not the elect or I am not predestined.

When Adam and Eve believed these lies, the glory of God was removed from them and they saw their nakedness, then ran into the bushes and hid in guilt and shame, and rejected God. When Satan whispers the "I am not" lies we should remind him that God is the "I AM."

**Discussion:** We have all struggled in the past with various "I am not" lies. What other "I am not" lies are we still battling with today?

**2. Many believers have a distorted view of God,** as if he is filled with a bloodthirsty anger demanding punishment for sin. However God poured out wrath on Jesus Christ on the cross instead of us.

**Q:** What precisely was the debt Jesus paid for on the cross?

**3. Jesus Christ did not go to the cross to change God; he went to the cross to change us.** He did not die to appease the Father's anger or to heal the Father's divided heart. Jesus Christ went to the cross to call a halt to the Fall and undo it, to convert fallen Adamic existence to his Father, to systematically eliminate our estrangement, so that he could accomplish his Father's dream for our adoption in his ascension.....

**Q:** What do you understand by adoption as it relates to being accepted?

4. **God does not change.** Our Father's desire for a loving relationship with humanity never diminished. His passionate love for us is unwavering and steadfast. Our Father desires to establish a connection, an association, an affiliation, a very special link and bond between himself and his children. (**Lamentations 3:21–23**).
5. **Faith in God means being faithful to him** and relying on him without reserve to the point of being in union with him (**Galatians 2:17**). Abiding in Christ will produce the fruit of obedience. This is how we are sure that we are united with him through obedience as Christ was obedient unto death.  
**Q:** Why is it important for us to know that we are united with him?
6. **Faith in God is a belief in him and his word, and getting to know him.** To clearly view him as he is, not a distorted view. This leads to a love of God and love of others which is the law wrapped up in two commands (**Matthew 22:36-40**).

We are accepted, we are included. We are children of God. The cross has made us flawless.

**Q:** What are we to do with the knowledge of the statement above (i.e. walk in Confidence)?

## **Conclusion**

The word “accepted” comes from the original Greek word “Charitoo” which literally means “Blessed and Highly Favored.” So you and I are not just accepted in the Beloved, which in itself is fantastic, but we are more precisely highly favoured in the Beloved, Jesus Christ.

In fact, the Greek scholar Thayer says that *charitoo* also means we are surrounded by favour. Which explains the declaration that we are ***Blessed and highly favoured and deeply loved.*** It's a powerful declaration and an important reminder that you are not alone and left to fend for yourself in life. You have a Father in heaven who loves you, favours you, protects you, and watches over you and all your loved ones.