



Set Free: New Identity Romans 8:1-17

Identity Markers that Define a Follower of Jesus...

Identity Marker #1 - Set Free From Guilt and Shame:

You are no longer condemned for breaking the law (Romans 8:1-3)

"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

- We are declared not guilty! (Justified) (v.1-2)
- Jesus was sent in human form to be an once and for all offering for our sin (v.3)

Identity Marker #2 - Set Free to Overcome Sin:

You are given the Holy Spirit who gives you the power to obey and please God (Romans 8:4-13)

"If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness." Romans 8:10

- Your role in overcoming sin: setting your mind on the Spirit (v.4-8)
- The Holy Spirit's role in overcoming sin: The dwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian (v.9-13)

Identity Marker #3 - Set Free to Belong to God:

You are adopted into God's forever family (Romans 8:14-16)

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God." Romans 8:15

- Before we were given a new identity in Jesus, we were led by our flesh, slaves to sin and God was a feared Judge (v.14-15a)
- Now as followers of Jesus, we are set free from sin and God is our loving Father (v.15b-16)

Identity Marker #4 - Set Free to Hope in the Future:

You have an inheritance (Romans 8:17)

"and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ..." Romans 8:17a

- The "first fruits" of our inheritance is the Holy Spirit himself (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- We are wonderfully connected to Jesus' inheritance (v.17a)
- The road to this inheritance will involve suffering (v.17b)
- Ultimately we will share in Jesus' joy and glory (v.17c)

Digging Deeper

Identity Marker #1 – Notes:

- “God justifies us through his Son (Jesus) and sanctifies us through His Spirit.”
– John Stott, Pastor and Theologian (1921-2011), commenting on Romans 8

Identity Marker #2 – Notes:

- Cross references from Romans 8 regarding our role in overcoming sin by “setting our minds.”
 - Colossians 3:1-5
 - Philippians 4:4
- “A man may easier see without eyes and speak without a tongue, than mortify a sin without the Spirit.”
– John Owen, Puritan Author and Pastor (16th Century)
- Deep Dive: Read John Owen’s 17th century book, *The Mortification of Sin*, Christian Heritage Publishers (you can order this from our Calvary bookstore)

Identity Marker #3 Notes

- Cross references on the term “Abba Father”
 - Jesus’ use: Mark 14:36
 - Paul’s Use: Galatians 4:1-7
- “Can anything be more beautiful in this world of cold steel and computers? Jesus, through the Spirit, has given us his own special name for God (“Abba Father”) and it has become our natural cry to a loving Father.”
– Kent Hughes, Christian Author and Theologian
- “You can’t add anything to being a child of God.” -John Perkins

Identity Marker #4 Notes

- Cross References:
 - 1 Peter 4:12-19
 - 1 Peter 5:10-11
 - 2 Timothy 3:12
- “We will inherit everything that belongs to God. He will pass on His possessions to us. It’s an incredible thing to think about. He’ll give us His joy. He’ll give us His peace. He’ll give us His power. He’ll even give us likeness to His own Son. He’ll give us access to everything in His entire new heaven and new earth. And we will have every right to call it our very own. He will grant us all that belongs to His everlasting and eternal Kingdom to be ours forever and ever. We inherit everything that God possesses.…”
– John MacArthur, Pastor, Sermon on Romans 8

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Look over the list of identity markers from Romans 8 in the outline above that define a follower of Jesus. What identity markers are easy for you to embrace and what identity markers are difficult for you to accept? Explain your thoughts.
2. Read Romans 8:4-13. What role do you play in overcoming sin and temptation? What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life in overcoming sin and temptation?
3. Read Romans 8:14-17. Discuss the truth about God being your perfect Father. How should this truth impact your prayer life? Impact your relationships? Impact your future?

Next Steps:

1. **Is Romans 8 a difficult passage for you to accept? Do you feel stuck in guilt and shame as a Christian?**
Consider one of Calvary’s Care Ministries opportunities to find healing. To find out more about Celebrate Recovery, Support Groups, and Counseling, call 714.550.2390 or visit calvarylife.org/care
2. **Do you want a resource to help set your mind on the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5)?**
Visit Calvary’s Resource Pastor, Randy Harris at the Calvary Corner Bookstore for helpful tools. You can also contact Randy at rharris@calvarylife.org or 714.550.2159.
3. **Take the next step in connecting and building friendships with other followers of Jesus at Calvary by joining a LifeGroup.** Contact Laura Copeland at lcopeland@calvarylife.org or at 714.550.2398 to find a LifeGroup that will fit your schedule and interest. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups

