***Our Identity in Christ – Sermon Kit 101-4***

Jesus is calling people to enter a race. The race is not easy, but its completion will make every moment of suffering pale as we behold what is in store. Jesus is waiting at the finish line. He will wipe away every tear and present awards to those who run their race well. We will be home.

The purpose of this sermon kit (**101**) is to introduce the race and the One who starts and finishes it for each person (Heb. 12:2). We want people to know who Jesus is, what Jesus calls them to, what the rewards are, and what the finish looks like. Hopefully, these will motivate positive action in the people to whom you minister.

This kit contains six sermons and the helps to go with them:

101-1 The Battle For Your Soul

101-2 Jesus, The Only Way To God

101-3 The Great Exchange

101-4 Our Identity In Christ

101-5 Our Great Wedding

101-6 Preparing To Finish Well

This section (**101-4; Our Identity In Christ**) of the kit is based on **2 Corinthians 5:17**. It matters not what we were before we came to Christ. Jesus makes us new. The One who originally formed us is motivated to and is able to transform us into His image. We are no longer what we were; we are God’s new creation.

The teaching sample includes the following characterizations of what we once were and what we now are.

1. No longer a slave, but a son.
2. No longer an enemy, but a friend.
3. No longer dead, but alive.
4. No longer dirty, but washed.
5. No longer condemned, but justified.
6. No longer alone, but part of a family.
7. No longer destined for Hell, but a citizen of Heaven.

This teaching sample uses seven biblical stories to illustrate the change in status that has happened in each Christian. Because these are self-contained stories, the sermon could be done in two parts, or the speaker could choose which stories to include and which to leave out. The stories could also be done as individual vignettes with a narrator telling each story as characters are illuminated on the platform. The pastor could then give the explanation of how the story impacts the lives of people today as setup for the next scene occurs on stage.

There are multiple parts to this sermon kit.

1. Introduction page – explains what is in the kit.
2. Sermon note-sheet – a resource for the people to take notes
3. Sermon outline – a resource for the pastor to use
4. Teaching sample – sermon text ideas
5. PowerPoint – graphics for media applications
6. Promotional helps – several resources to help promote the message
7. “Who am I?” – statements about famous people
8. My identity in Christ – other ways the Bible identifies how God sees His children.

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