



"A Good Self-Image" (Ephesians 1:1-6)

INTRODUCTION: One of the keys to the Christian life is finding out who you are in Christ. True Christianity is not behavior modification. God does not work from the outside in; He works from the inside out. God doesn't modify our behavior in order to change us. God changes us in order to modify our behavior.

Paul starts the Book of Ephesians by telling us who we are, and then he tells us how we are to live. He starts off with the doctrinal portion (What we are) and then he gives us the practical portion (How to live like what we are). In other words, he starts off with **being** and finishes with **doing**.

John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

I. RECOGNIZE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CHRIST (EPHESIANS 1:1)

The phrase Paul uses to describe a saved person is that we are "in Christ Jesus."

*"There are only two categories of people in the world: The saints and the ain'ts."
– Adrian Rogers*

True, genuine humility is accepting what God says about you.

*"I cannot work my soul to save; that work my Lord has done.
But I will work like any slave for the love of God's dear Son."*

Romans 4:4-6, "4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth (charges to his account) righteousness without works,"

For those who ask, "What about my future sins?" The next 2 verses deal with the past and the future sins.

Romans 4:7-8, "7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."

II. RELY ON YOUR RESOURCES IN CHRIST (EPHESIANS 1:3)

Not only are you righteous in God's sight, but God has given you everything you need to live victoriously. We must, by faith believe that God has already given those things to us. God never asks anything of you that He hasn't already given to you.

I Chronicles 29:14, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee."

Romans 8:9, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

II Peter 1:3, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"

III. REST IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP IN CHRIST (EPHESIANS 1:6)

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

"God does not change us in order that He may love us. God loves us in order that He may change us."

CONCLUSION: When I recognize my righteousness in Christ, it causes me to want to live a holy life before Him. When I rely on my resources in Christ, it causes me to want to give all I have back to Him. And when I rest in my relationship in Christ, it causes me to love Him with all I am and to love those He came to die for.