

JCI #186 July 2017
You are who God says you are!

Who are you? I mean, really. Who are you as a believer in Jesus Christ?
You are who God says you are! God says a lot about you in His word.

When we were without Christ He told us the truth about ourselves by calling us sinners, enemies, rebels, children of wrath, slaves of sin, lost, blind, deaf, dead... and that is only the start of the long list of realities of our condition before He saved us through His Son's death on the cross and the new birth He gave us through the gospel.

Now as believers, God says, "the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor 5:17 Paul tells us we need to put the past in the past so we can live in the present with our eyes on the future of Christ's soon return. Phil 3:13-15

So, Who am I now? Who am I as a forgiven, born-again believer in Jesus Christ?
Let's take a look at a dozen things God says you are... (and there are many, many more!)

I am a Servant Christ is my Master Colossians 4:7, 4:11, 4:12, Phil 4:3, Col 1:25,
Eph 6:21, Romans 16:3,

Servant, bond-slave, worker, laborer, minister... all are terms that remind us we are under the orders and control of our Master and Lord Jesus Christ. We owe Him our all and should be constantly seeking to do His will. Submission, eager service, strenuous effort, purposeful excellence, sincere effort... all should characterize my life as His servant.

I am a Disciple Christ is my Lord Matt 10:24-25, Luke 5:1-11

Disciple, follower, learner... this is most common term used to describe a believer. We are called to follow Christ as our Lord, Model, Teacher, Trainer, Coach, and Leader. Our lives are to become more and more conformed to His teaching, His model, His character, His goal. I am to listen to His words, believe His words, obey His words, and share His words with others. His words are to be my life's blood, my soul's food, my heart's joy, my mind's focus.

I am a Soldier Christ is my Captain 2 Tim 2:3, 2 Tim 4:7, 1 Tim 6:12, Heb 2:10

Soldier, Under Orders, In a Battle, Facing Conflict, With an Enemy... We are called to follow Christ as our Captain. He is leading the army of which I am a part. He is guaranteeing the victory. I must accept the fact that this world is enemy territory for now. Christ will create a new universe where perfect peace will forever reign. But for now, I must embrace the reality

that life is a battle and conflict is the norm. I must take up the armor, face the foe, stand for truth, and follow my Captain into the fight for the gospel's advance against which the gates of hell will not stand.

I am an Athlete Christ is my Judge 1 Cor 9:24-27, 1 Tim 6:11, 2 Tim 2:5 & 4:7-8

Athlete, marathoner, long distance runner... reminds me that a life of obedience to Christ requires discipline and endurance and that I will face Christ at the end to be rewarded if I run faithfully after Him.

I am a Child Christ is my Elder Brother/Father Col 3:10, Hebrews 2:11-15, Romans 8:15, Gal 4:6

Immediate family member in relationship to the Godhead... through the new birth I am God's child and possess an amazing intimacy of relationship so that I call God "Abba" (Daddy) and am assured of His love, care and provision for my every need.

I am an Heir Christ is my Co-Heir Romans 8:14 Gal 3:29, 4:7 James 2:5 Heb 1:14, 6:17

Son, Heir, Co-heir with Christ, Heir of salvation, Heir of promise... God has provided me with an everlasting, indescribable inheritance, which is guaranteed to me through Christ's death and resurrection in His Father's house and all prepared for me. That God would include me in His eternal inheritance in glory makes death gain, and all the hardships of life worth going thru just to be with Him forever! Being an heir fills the believer with joy, hope, and eager anticipation of the future.

I am a Witness Christ is my Message Acts 1:8, 4:29

Witness, Communicator, Spokesman, Voice... I have a message, a personal testimony, regarding my Savior that I am called to share with confidence and concern for those who have not yet received the witness of His gospel. My message is Christ. My witness is personal. My opportunity is constant.

I am a Saint Christ is my Righteousness Phil 4:21-22, Col 1:2, 26 1 Thess 3:13
2 Cor 5:21 Jude 24

Called, Justified, Sanctified, Set Apart... Christ, having cleansed me from sin by His cross, has given me His perfect righteousness, having set me apart from the world by His Spirit, having made me fully acceptable to God, I am no longer of this world, but am a citizen of heaven. This explains why the world no longer holds such value to me, and why heaven is my treasure and desire.

I am a Member of the Body Christ is my Head Col 1:18, 2:19 1 Cor 12:18-27

Member, organ, vitally functioning part... Belonging to Jesus by faith, the Holy Spirit baptized me into Christ's body, the church, and connected me really and vitally to every other believer, making us one body. So it is on the local level as I am joined by the Spirit to my fellow believers, of one family, in one body, each part functioning according to the gifts given by the Spirit individually to be used fully in serving each other. I have a new Father, a new Family, and a new Purpose to be lived out with my fellow believers in the church he has united me with.

I am a Living Stone Christ is my Cornerstone/Foundation Stone 1 Peter 2:1-10

Living stone, part of Christ's temple, built to last, shaped and placed... As a living stone, I am part of Christ's spiritual temple, His dwelling place individually as well as collectively with other believers. I have a new place, a new purpose, a new position, a new identity, a new location, a new situation in which I am positioned to exalt God and further the glory of Christ by holding fast to my foundation, resting on Christ, resting in Christ, lifting up Christ in all I do.

I am Priest Christ is my High Priest 1 Peter 2:5-9 Rev 1:6, 5:10, 20:6 Heb 4:14-16

Priest, worshipper, sacrifice giver, having access to God... Christ my High Priest has offered Himself as my one and only sacrifice for sin. He has made me a priest so that I have immediate and full access to God thru Himself, so that I may participate in His work of making a kingdom of priests to live in His presence and offer up acceptable worship to the Father eternally. This means I have the most privileged of positions, that of having immediate and constant access to God and the opportunity to present myself before Him for His use and glory.

I am a Pilgrim Christ is my Guide 1 Peter 2:11 Heb 11:13

Pilgrim, stranger, alien, not at home, on my way home... Christ is leading me thru this foreign land to the place that will be truly home for me forever. All here that is seen is temporary, but the eternal await me. I should not be surprised that this world holds no great interest for me. It is the souls of men and women, boys and girls I value, for they will live forever, either with God or separated from God. Earthly treasures rust, rot and fade. Heaven's treasures last forever.

Lord, grant me the grace to live today in such a way that when I see it again before Your throne, You will be pleased and I will not be ashamed. Remind me, Lord, over and over....

I am a Servant, You are my Master,

I am a Disciple, You are my Lord,

I am a Soldier, You are my Captain,

I am an Athlete, You are my Judge,
I am a Child, You are my Elder Brother,
I am an Heir, You are my Co-Heir,
I am a Witness, You are my Message,
I am a Saint, You are my Righteousness,
I am a Member, You are my Head,
I am a Living Stone, You are my Cornerstone,
I am a Priest, You are my High Priest,
I am a Pilgrim, You are my Guide.
May my life please You in all things, now and forever.
I pray in Your matchless names,
Amen!

Self-Check

1) Which name/title God has given you most convicts you... most encourages you... most motivates you... most amazes you?

2) Which relationship described do you need to think more about? Why?

For Further Study

Come up with another 10 names God has given you and the relationship with Christ it includes/assumes.

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4 Ron& Val

Seeing the Invisible,
Embracing The Unapproachable,
Declaring the Unexplainable,
Changed by the Immutable,
Running after the Irresistible
With inexhaustible joy
In our inexpressible sorrows,
Spending our time on eternity,
Owning nothing yet possessing everything
That matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY