

Matters of the Heart: Identity in Christ
Mignette Dorsey
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This study will address the following:

1. Who am I in Christ?
2. How has He changed my heart?
3. How do my actions reflect him?
4. Does my mouth reflect a changed heart?

Stay too long away from the Word of God and you will forget who you are in Christ. Once the flesh takes over, these things begin to transpire:

- a. You'll stop taking thoughts captive and your thoughts will go awry because you won't be able to control your thinking.
- b. You will begin to DO THINGS that shock you – and those who know you.
- c. You will begin to SAY THINGS that shock you – and those who know you.

SO, IT'S IMPORTANT TO ...

- I. _____ your heart

READ Proverbs 4:23

“Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.” (NASB)

“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.” (ESV)

- a. Let's talk about hair: The definition of a “protective hair style” is one that “tucks the hair away and keeps it free from manipulation. ... Afro-textured hair is often prone to breakage or damage from the elements; protective hairstyles aim to guard against this.”
- b. You see the analogy. Our hearts need _____, like our hair, especially the ends.

Otherwise, our _____ will run wild, and our minds will _____!
- c. The protectants of believers' hearts are the _____ and the _____

_____ Both require using our _____.

The first thing to grasp is: **WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY IN JESUS CHRIST.**

- II. Positional Sanctification (Our Position in Jesus Christ / Who am I in Christ?)

1. **READ II Corinth 5:14-18.** What do you learn from this passage about who we are and whose we are?
2. Positional Sanctification is what God the Holy Spirit does for us at salvation when He places into union with Jesus Christ. It teaches _____ in Jesus Christ. Among other

benefits, we also live in _____ because we are “_____ in Christ” with eternal life inside our human bodies (Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1-3).

3. A ___ creation means we must _____ with our _____ after we are born again through faith in Jesus Christ’s substitutionary death on the cross. We simply are _____ who we once were before salvation.

4. Back to the hair analogy. Cutting off the permed hair, altered by that strong chemical, means the natural hair grows faster, is not weighed down by the chemically-altered hair, and now requires regular hydration, moisture, conditioning, oil, etc.

How does the hair analogy relate to how we are to live after salvation?

5. **READ Romans 6:4-14.** What does this passage teach us about how we are to view and treat our old life versus and our new life in Jesus Christ?

6. We must remember we are _____ (John 1:12).

7. We are _____ of the God and _____ of God (I Cor. 6:19-20; II Cor. 6:16-18; 7:1).

8. We are a holy _____ (I Peter 2:5, 9-10; Revelation 1:6).

9. We are the _____ of the earth and the _____ of the world (Matt. 5:13-14).

III. How do we change the heart, actions, and mouth? Through Experiential Sanctification.

10. While God the Holy Spirit made us positionally perfect in Christ at the moment of our salvation (Positional Sanctification), becoming a mature believer (not a perfect one)

is a _____ that involves the Christian _____ to yield her or his life to God the Holy

Spirit. It involves our _____.

11. We must _____ Abide in Christ (John 15:1-5).
12. We must _____ Walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 5:18).
13. We must _____ study the Word of God (II Timothy 2:15).
14. We must _____ present our bodies a living sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1).
15. Once we _____ to allow God the Holy Spirit to live through us, HE _____ us, supernaturally.

IV. The Life Changed by God the Holy Spirit

16. A Christian who abides in Christ, living under the power of the Holy Spirit, and engaged

in learning and applying the Word of God will begin to _____ of Jesus Christ (Gal. 5:22-24).

17. The believer will begin to _____ their thoughts (II Corin.10:3-6).
18. The believer will begin to choose _____ to think about (Phil. 4:8-9).
19. The believer's _____ toward others will _____ because they will _____ (I Corin. 13:4-7).
20. The believer will _____ others and themselves and become _____ (Eph. 5:15-21).
21. AFTER the heart changes and AFTER the thoughts change, believers, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will begin to _____ (James 1:19; 3:2).