

Who are you?

Suggested Reading: Ephesians 1:1ff, John 17:22f, Psalms 139:13–16, Psalms 71:6, Matthew 10:29–31, Gen 1:27, Acts 17:28, Jeremiah 1:4f, Psalms 51:5, Ephesians 2:1ff.



You are a creation of God, fearfully and wonderfully made. As you prayerfully read the suggested Scripture passages above, you will see that God knew you before He laid the foundations of the earth, that He knew every detail of your creation, even the number of hairs on your head, that He wove you together in your mother’s womb, and that He was there when you were born. You will also read of another “you” who was conceived in sin and from birth has no righteousness of your own. Which one are you? You are both; there are two of you.

- ❖ The Real You
- ❖ The You Plus Sin

The Two You’s

The Real You

In the heart of God, there is the you that He chose before the foundations of the world, perfected in Christ Jesus. There is a bumper sticker that sums it up: “God don’t make no junk!” All of God’s creation was perfectly made; you too are fearfully and wonderfully made. There are no exceptions. You were created in the image of God, a shadow, perfect, with the potential of becoming real as God Himself is real. This is the real you. We will call that you, “YOU.”



The Real You Plus Sin

Then, there is the other you. To that perfect creation of YOU is added “everything else.” What has been added? Sin has been added. Everything of the Kingdom of Satan that is presently in your life has been added. God did not create you with sin attached. Sin has been added by the enemy: sin that comes down through the generations, sin that comes in through trauma, sin from your willfulness and disobedience, sin from your cooperating him. Sin is the “everything else” that has been added. Sin was there when you were born. We will call that you, “YOU Plus.”



You were created perfect in Christ Jesus and were born in sin.

At the same time that God saw the YOU in creation, He also saw the YOU Plus and had already made provisions for your redemption. God presently has a specific plan tailored to YOU Plus to deal with the “everything else” that is in your life, and also a specific plan to deal with the YOU, to change you into

the likeness of Jesus Christ. This plan is both Restoration and Transformation.. Transformation deals with the “You” and Restoration deals with the “You Plus Sin.”

Restoration

Restoration is being restored to humanity’s initial state in the Garden of Eden by dealing with your sin and removing the enemy’s kingdom from your life. The fall in the garden did not come as a surprise to God—He had foreseen it even before the foundations of the Earth and had made provisions in Himself to make the way of recovery possible. Because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross in complete obedience to His heavenly Father, you can be empowered to remove the enemy and his kingdom from your life, and you can choose to replace it with the Kingdom of God.



Transformation

But restoration is not enough; it just restores you to a place where you can more fully enter into God’s eternal purpose—that we would be transformed into His likeness by His indwelling Life and by a walk of obedience, from shadow into reality. His purpose has not changed. We are called to a dependent, intimate walk of obedience, eating continually of the Tree of Life (Genesis 2 and 3), which is the person of Jesus Christ. Foundational to this walk is being born again, to restore the life of God in us, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit to empower us to walk the Christian Life in dependent obedience. Transformation is being changed into the image of Jesus Christ, being changed from shadow into reality through obedience to Jesus Christ.

Restoration and transformation are absolutely foundational to our walk as Christians. It is important to understand that restoration is not transformation. Removing the enemy from our lives does not change us into the likeness of Jesus Christ; it just returns us to the state of Adam and Eve in the Garden, but without the Life of God. We still must receive the Life of God (being born again) and the baptism of the Holy Spirit (empowerment) and live a life of obedience to the Person of God in order to be changed into His likeness. Restoration and transformation are the two foundational themes in the Christian walk. God’s plan for our salvation is made up of both restoration and transformation.