



Next Steps - Freedom Ministry

A large black cross stands against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, blue-grey clouds, with a band of lighter, orange-tinged clouds near the horizon. The cross is positioned on the right side of the frame.

Who Am I?

my identity in Christ

www.c3churchgoulburn.com

Welcome

Welcome to [Next Steps - Freedom Ministry](#).

We are so glad you are here. Whether you have just made a decision to follow Jesus, or you have been a Christian for a while and want to grow deeper in your faith, this pathway has been designed with you in mind.

At C3 Church Goulburn, we believe that following Jesus is the greatest adventure life has to offer.

Yours in Christ
Ps Ken & Fiona & the team

On a personal note — the topics in this booklet are ones I have wrestled with personally. Understanding who I am in Christ has been one of the most transformative and ongoing journeys of my Christian life.

I didn't write this booklet from a place of having it all figured out — I wrote it as a fellow traveller who has discovered that what God says about us is far more true and far more beautiful than anything the world, our past, or our own hearts have told us.

Ps Fiona

How to Use This Booklet

This booklet is yours to work through at your own pace. There is no rush.

You can:

- Read through it on your own and reflect personally.
- Work through it with a leader or mentor.
- Do a bit of both — read ahead, then chat it through

Each section includes some teaching, key bible passages to look up, reflection questions and space to journal your thoughts.

Don't skip the writing spaces — sometimes the most important discoveries happen when we put pen to paper.

This booklet is the first step in the Freedom Ministry stream.

Future booklets will be part of the Freedom In Christ programme, by Neil T Anderson. Please speak to a leader once you have finished this first step to be advised on how to continue.

Who Were You? The Old Identity

Before we can fully appreciate who we are in Christ, we need to understand who we were without Him. Not to dwell in the past or to heap shame on ourselves — but because the contrast between the old and the new is what makes the gospel so breathtakingly beautiful.

The Bible is remarkably honest about the human condition. It doesn't dress it up or soften it. It tells us the truth — because only the truth can set us free:

Ephesians 2:1-3

"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

Dead — not sick or struggling — dead. Spiritually separated from God, living under the influence of a world system that was running in the wrong direction, shaped by forces that were working against us.

1

— Separated from God

Sin created a barrier between us and the One who made us. We were not just doing wrong things — we were in the wrong family, under the wrong kingdom.

2

— Shaped by the world

The values, voices and messages of the world around us told us who we were. Our worth was tied to what we achieved, how we looked, what others thought of us.

3

— Subject to the enemy

whether we knew it or not, the "prince of the power of the air" had influence over the direction of our lives.

**Read Ephesians 4:22-24**

What are some of the specific "old self" thought patterns or beliefs about yourself that you are aware need to be renewed?

The Great Transfer

Here is where everything changes. The Bible uses a remarkable word to describe what happens when we give our lives to Jesus. It is not just improvement. It is not just forgiveness. It is a **transfer**.

Colossians 1:13

"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

The moment you gave your life to Jesus, you were not just forgiven — you were relocated. Moved from one kingdom to another. Taken out from under the dominion of darkness and placed into the kingdom of the Son of God's love.

This is not a gradual process. It is not something you are working towards. It happened — *completely and permanently* — the moment you placed your faith in Christ.

Romans 6:3-4

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Your old self — the person defined by sin, shaped by the world, subject to the enemy — was buried with Christ. And you were raised with Him into an entirely new life. This is the most radical thing that has ever happened to you. More significant than anything else in your story. You are not the same person you were. You have been transferred.

Who Are You Now?

So if the old is gone — who are you now?

This is the question at the heart of everything. And the answer is not found by looking inward at how you feel, or outward at what others say about you. The answer is found in what God says about you.

The New Testament uses a phrase over and over again that is one of the most significant phrases in all of scripture: **in Christ**. It appears more than 160 times. It is God's way of describing your new location, your new identity, your new reality. You are not just someone who has been forgiven. You are someone who is *in Christ* — and everything that is true of Him is now true of you. Here is what that means:

You Are A Child of God

John 1:12

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

You are not a servant trying to earn God's approval. You are not a distant acquaintance. You are a child — with full rights, full access, full belonging in the family of God. This is not a metaphor. This is your legal and spiritual reality.

† *How does it change the way you approach God to know that you come to Him as a child, not as someone trying to earn their place?*

2 Corinthians 5:17 says that you are a new creation. The old you — defined by sin, shame and separation — is not just reformed or improved. It has passed away. Something genuinely new has come into existence. You are not the old version with a fresh coat of paint. You are new.

What God Says About You

One of the most powerful and liberating discoveries in the Christian life is this: **God has already told you who you are.** You do not need to find your identity. You do not need to construct it, earn it or perform for it. God has spoken it over you, written it into your spiritual DNA, and declared it as permanent and unchangeable truth.

The problem is that most of us live as though we have never heard it. We listen instead to other voices — the voice of our past, the voice of our failures, the voice of the enemy, the voice of people who hurt us. And those voices are loud. But they are not true. Here is what is true:

Look up each scripture and write down what it says about who you are:

1

— I am accepted

- **John 15:15** — I am Christ's friend
- **Romans 5:1** — I have been justified
- **Ephesians 1:5** — I have been adopted as God's child

2

— I am secure

- **Romans 8:1** — *I am free from condemnation*
- **Romans 8:38-39** — *I cannot be separated from God's love*
- **Colossians 3:3** — *I am hidden with Christ in God*

3

— I am significant

- **Matthew 5:13-14** — *I am the salt and light of the earth*
- **Ephesians 2:10** — *I am God's workmanship, created for good works*
- **Philippians 4:13** — *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*

These are not **aspirational** statements — things you are hoping to become one day. These are **declarative** statements — things that are **already true** of you right now, because you are in Christ.

Why don't I feel like it?

This is the honest question that sits in the room. If all of this is true — if I am a new creation, a child of God, complete in Him — why do I still struggle? Why do I still sin? Why do I still feel like the old me sometimes?

This is one of the most important questions a Christian can ask. And the answer changes everything. The truth is that **who you are and how you feel are two different things**. Your identity in Christ is not a feeling — it is a fact. And facts are not altered by feelings.

When you gave your life to Jesus, something happened instantly and completely in your spirit — you were transferred, made new, indwelt by the Holy Spirit. But your **mind** — the way you think, the patterns you have rehearsed, the beliefs you have built up over a lifetime — did not change automatically. That is a process.

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Transformation — the catching up of your experience with your identity — happens through the **renewing of your mind**.

It is the ongoing process of replacing lies with truth. Of learning to see yourself the way God sees you. Of choosing, day by day, to agree with what God says rather than what you feel.

This is what theologians call **sanctification** — the lifelong process of becoming in practice who you already are in position. You are not a sinner trying to become a saint. You are a saint who sometimes sins — and there is a world of difference between those two statements. One defines you by your behaviour. The other defines you by your identity.

**Read Ephesians 4:22-24**

What are some of the specific "old self" thought patterns or beliefs about yourself that you are aware need to be renewed?

Living From Your Identity

There is a way of living the Christian life that is utterly exhausting — and it looks like this: trying to *behave well enough* to feel like you belong to God. Performing for acceptance. Working for approval you already have.

Most Christians live this way at some point. Some live this way their whole lives. And it never works — because it begins from the wrong place.

The invitation of the gospel is not to **perform** your way into identity. It is to **live from** the identity you have already been given.

Think of it this way. A child who knows they are deeply loved by their parents does not have to earn that love. They live out of the security of it. They can make mistakes without fear of being cast out. They can be honest about their failures without shame destroying them. The love is the foundation — not the reward.

This is exactly how God intends you to live. Your acceptance is not the goal you are working toward — it is the *ground you are standing on*.

Practical Steps To Live From Identity

1

— Know the truth

You cannot live from an identity you do not know. The "In Christ" statements on the previous pages are a starting point. Write them down. Speak them out. Let them become more familiar than the lies.

2

— Renew your mind daily

Spend time in scripture not just looking for things to do, but for truth about who you are. Let God's word reshape the way you see yourself.

3

— Recognise the enemies tactics

The enemy cannot change who you are in Christ, but he will work hard to make you forget. He speaks in accusations, shame, condemnation and doubt. Learn to recognise his voice — and refuse to agree with it.

3

— Be honest about the struggle

Freedom is not pretending everything is fine. It is being honest about the places where you are not yet living in the fullness of who you are, and bringing those places to God.



Read 1 John 1:9

What would change in your daily life if you truly lived from the security of being God's beloved child, rather than trying to earn your place with Him?

Romans 8:1

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

No condemnation. None. This is the foundation you stand on — not your performance, but His grace.

Journaling Space

Feel free to use this space to write down any additional thoughts, scriptures or questions that you might have.

Developing a regular time with God in His word is one of the main ways we grow in the faith.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Reflect and Respond

Take some time to work through these questions honestly. There are no right or wrong answers — this is between you and God.

1. Before you came to Christ, what were the main things that defined your identity — the things you built your sense of self and worth around?

2. Colossians 1:13 says you have been "delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love." What does it mean to you personally that this transfer is already complete?

3. Which of the "In Christ" identity statements from page 7 is hardest for you to receive? What do you think is behind that difficulty?

4. How much of your Christian life has been spent trying to perform for God's acceptance rather than living from it? What would it look like to make the shift?

5. The enemy works to make us forget who we are in Christ. What are the specific lies or accusations you are most prone to believing about yourself?

6. What is one practical step you could take this week to begin renewing your mind with the truth of who God says you are?

Your Next Step

This booklet is just the beginning.

Understanding who you are in Christ is the foundation of everything — of freedom, of fruitfulness, of becoming the person God created you to be. But for many of us, knowing the truth in our heads and living from it in our hearts are two very different things.

There is a gap between what we believe about our identity and how we actually experience our lives. In that gap, the enemy has often done significant work — through our past, our wounds, our sin, our agreements with lies. And that gap does not always close through information alone.

Following on from this introductory booklet, we have 'Stand Firm - understanding authority in Christ'. This booklet aims to increase your understanding on what it means to walk in freedom through submitting to God and resisting the devil. The victory is already ours in Him.

But there is so much more....

This is why we are so excited to offer the opportunity to explore the personal ministry experience called **The Steps to Freedom in Christ**, developed by Dr Neil T. Anderson.

The **Steps to Freedom** is not a counselling session — it is a personal discipleship experience that walks you through a process of genuine repentance, renunciation of the enemy's work in your life, and a fresh declaration of who you are in Christ. It is powerful, practical and grounded entirely in scripture.

Many believers who have walked through the Steps describe it as the most significant spiritual experience of their Christian life — not because of anything dramatic, but because of the genuine, lasting freedom they found on the other side.

How to take this step: Speak with a leader for more information about working through the **Steps to Freedom in Christ**.

It is done either as a group experience or one-on-one with a trained leader who will walk alongside you through the process in a safe, confidential and prayerful environment. This follows a basic course on what freedom is and what it means for you biblically and practically.

You do not need to have it all together to take this step. In fact, the more honestly you can approach it, the more fruit you will see.

Galatians 5:1

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

Freedom is not just a doctrine.

It is your inheritance in Christ. And it is available to you —
today.

Continue Your Journey

Scan the QR code to explore more **Next Steps** resources online



A Christ-Centred Community

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