

Cat-Butt

1. Characteristics of a Caterpillar

ASK: What are some characteristics of a caterpillar?

Caterpillars can't fly, so they crawl on their bellies. They eat leaves and manure. And they cannot reproduce.

2. Metamorphoses

A caterpillar goes through a transformation, a complete change, called metamorphoses.

3. Butterfly

ASK: What are some characteristics of a butterfly?

Butterfly's eat leaves and nectar. They get around by flying. And they are able to reproduce and spread pollen that helps other plants reproduce.

4. Perverted

ASK: What would you say if you saw a butterfly crawling around on its belly, eating manure?

If a butterfly began crawling around on its belly and eating manure because it still acted or thought it was a caterpillar, I would say it is acting perverted, out of its normal state or identity. It is the same thing for a believer who walks around identifying and trying not to live in the old self, they are acting perverted, or not in their new identity.

5. Good News

You see, God loved us so much He decided to make a way for us to be transformed, giving us a new identity and reality. He did for us what we could never do for ourselves, through His son, Jesus. Jesus came down into our broken world and lived a life we were designed to but perpetually failed to, as an His image bearing identity and always relying on God's Spirit. Jesus allowed himself to be killed on a cross, taking all of our sin, shame, guilt and brokenness upon Himself. Jesus declared that if anyone would turn from their ways and surrender to Him as their King- believing that He really did come, die on the cross, and rise from the dead- they would be forgiven.

6. New Identity

Just like when a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly, when we believe in Jesus we are spiritually made new and given a new identity in Him. We believe that spiritually the old sinful ha self-died and a new life that stands in right standing with God was imputed through His indwelling Spirit. The fruit we produce is not ours, but Jesus' who lives in us. We now are able to experience God's perfect design for our lives. And we also get to take part in restoring God's design for the world.

ASK: What would you say if you saw a follower of Jesus living the same way they did before becoming a Christian?

Three Questions:

- Where do you get your identity from?
- Is there anything that keeps you from turning from your ways, believing in the gospel of Jesus, and letting Him give you a new, transformed life, the way He designed it?
- For a Christian who believes this, do you think they need to try harder not to sin or do the right thing, or do you think they need to believe that they are already made new, realize their new identity is His life living in and through them and all they have to do is not put back on the old self?

