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The Great Identity Crisis

Identity: the fact of being who or what a person or thing is.

In the western culture of the 21st century one of the most common questions asked is, who am I? The answer to this question is sought after more than buried treasure itself. Most often the answer to this question is never found by the individual that is going through life trying to find themselves as a person. On this journey they fill the empty void of being without an identity by twisting their sexual orientation, fighting for high levels success, seeking fame and fortune, living lifestyles that bring a temporary sense of acceptance, or they attempt to elevate themselves above others which brings everyone else down in the process.

Where these individuals have failed is that they have tried to find their identity in themselves. Some may ask where did this issue come from? Some may wonder if everyone struggles with their identity forever, but there are those that realize they can never find their true identity until it is given to them. Now the

question must be asked, who gives us our identity and how can we receive it from that person

I. The foundation of man's physical & spiritual identity

Genesis 1:26–27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

A. Let us make man:

Genesis 3:22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Genesis 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

B. In our image, after our likeness:

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for **in the image of God** made he man.

This brings us to the conclusion that our physically and spiritually identify comes from God Himself. You might respond in saying, YES! I know this is the foundation but why is it that I am still searching and why do no not have peace about who I am?!

This brings us to the next point:

II. The fall of man's spiritual identity.

Genesis 3:6 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

A. Adam's Identity was secure in The Lord.

B. Adam's lost his spiritual identity

C. The fall of Adam's spiritual identity was passed on to all of his dissidents.

Romans 5:12 ¹² Wherefore, as by **one man sin** entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

1 Corinthians 14:33 ³³ For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

As it is clearly seen here, God is not the founder of the great identity crisis. Satan was the founder and Adam was the transmitter of this crisis. The confusion that we feel in regarding our spiritual identity is because we are all born as a sinful creature which spiritually separated from The Lord.

It is clear that we have someone who brought us into the great identity crisis, but who is it that will bring us out of the great identity crisis?

1. **Genesis 15:6** ⁶ And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness. – Abram believed in the coming Messiah, he was saved and received a new identity in the Messiah and received the new name of Abraham which means the Father is Exalted!

2. **Genesis 35:10** ¹⁰ And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel. – after Jacobs belief was counted unto him for righteousness he received a new identity in Christ and was renamed Israel.

3. **Matthew 16:15–18** ¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. – After Simon's salvation he received a new identity and Jesus Christ renamed Simon, to Peter.

These men did not receive their identity by being a patriarch, deceiving others, or by having a fishing business. They received their new identity spiritually through Jesus Christ which in returned changed their physical identity with the world!

III. The solution to the great identity crisis.

How can our identity crisis be fixed?

A. Realize that you personally cannot reconcile this and you must turn to God away from your sin.

Romans 3:19,20,23 **19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. **23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

B. Recognizing Who can reconcile this problem

Romans 3:24,25 **24** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: **25** Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (the means of forgiveness) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance (long suffering) of God;

C. Having our identity crisis settled through faith and belief in Jesus Christ

Romans 3:26–29 **26** To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. **27** Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. **28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

IV. Receive Your New Identity

Ephesians 4:21–24 ²¹ If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

If anyone here this morning is still suffering from the great identity crisis you can get help now.

You might be in your pew or at home and you are asking yourself, I heard what the preacher said this morning and I want to be saved so I can have a new identity in Jesus Christ. The question is, what must I do to be saved?

Romans 10:9,10 ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.