

IDENTITY CRISIS

As pastor of a very cosmopolitan church, it is always a real pleasure to look out and see so many nationalities represented. As such, Cornerstone has a uniqueness that is undeniable, and each individual member can still find his/her own identity. In this respect there are two images, the image of 'self' based on who you think you are and the image of 'self' based on who God says you are. It concerns me when I ask someone, "How are you" and they immediately tell me what they've done or achieved. What we do must not determine who we are, but who we are should determine what we do. This is probably the main cause of the identity crisis that so many people are facing today.

To many of us are earnestly seeking to belong to something, and in our attempts to find an identity we take on a persona that is not ours. Remember this, if you look into the mirror of the world system, you will always find an image of 'self' that is contrary to the person God created you to be. Success and the fulfilment of your destiny hinges on the knowledge you have of who you are in Christ. From this knowledge you can start to build a correct picture of the unique person you really are! There is nothing ordinary about you! God looked down the corridors of time and He called you by name. You are very special because He has deposited in you gifts and talents that are yours alone. No one else can do what you have been called to do, in the way He has purposed you to do it, within the timeframe and assignment He has given you. You are one of a kind, unlike anyone else, a remarkable individual (in the best sense of the word).

Whatever Jesus accomplished was never contrary to His identity. He led from who He was, and all His achievements simply expressed His true identity. He "did" everything from who He was: God incarnate; the perfect expression of the Father; the Way, the Truth and the Life. Note, as Jesus pursued His divine mission He influenced others. Similarly, when we "do" from who we are (from what is truly natural), we too will influence others and become more and more effective for the kingdom. The key is to know who you are before pursuing your destiny. Otherwise, your identity crisis will drag you down and cause you to become discouraged with life.

Out of who you are, you can achieve great things! So avoid mimicking anyone other than Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. For when you behold His glory, as in a mirror, you will be transformed into His image - from glory to glory! By taking on Christ's identity, you become just like Him, and the very things that He did you will do also, and even greater things than these because He has gone to be with the Father. Hallelujah! Who I think I am is of no importance unless I have knowledge of Him, because as my knowledge of Him increases I find my true self. It is that person who is designed to do all things through Christ. It is that person whose mortal body is being quickened by the Holy Spirit to achieve the impossible. It is that person through whom the love of God manifests in a profound way.

If you are having an identity crisis, loose your identity and simply take on Christ's identity. You will never regret it! For this is the greatest honour we can receive - to be just like Him, to live in the realm of the supernatural.