

We Won't Lose Our Identity

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In searching the scriptures we find that God has always required something special from His people to differentiate them from others. The covenant God made with Abraham was circumcision. *“This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.” (Genesis 17:10)* God did not want any if's, and's or but's regarding the covenant sealed by the circumcision of every male. Every male that would be born in the house or bought with money must be circumcised.

When Adolph Hitler and the German Army began their persecution of the Jewish people, they would round up all the Jews in every country they occupied. In some of the countries it became difficult to distinguish who were the Jews since some that were captured were red-headed, blond, blue eyes, green eyes, etc. So, the Germans would have all the captured males to disrobe. The Jews were identified by who was circumcised. Circumcision was one identity that could not be hid.

In the New Testament the one identity that separated the Apostolics from other religions or denominations was the baptism in Jesus Name, and the speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance. The scripture is very clear regarding these two signs especially as being identified as born-again Apostolics. This is not the only identity, but this is the required identity.

The scriptures say that a great meeting was in process in Samaria by Philip, many that were possessed with unclean spirits were delivered, many that were lame were healed, and some were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus; but they could not be identified until Peter and John came down from Jerusalem laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. Receiving the baptism of water, and baptism in the Holy Ghost identified them.

In the tenth chapter of Acts, before the Apostle Peter could complete his sermon, the Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard the word. *“For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”* Notice they were not identified until they were baptized in the Holy Ghost, and by water baptism in Jesus Name. (Acts 10:44-48)

The Apostle Paul in Acts 19 when encouraging the disciples of John the Baptist, re-baptized them, and laid hands on them, and they spake with tongues and prophesied.

For those who lay claim to deny the baptism in Jesus Name and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, this comes just short of being blasphemy, and would consist in attributing to the power of Satan, and would be an insult to God, the word of God, and the nature of God. *Matthew 12:32b*, “*And whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*” (See also Mark 3:28) By not identifying with being baptized in Jesus Name, and receiving the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance, would have to be determinant of losing your identity.

As mentioned earlier, after receiving the Holy Ghost, there are additional ways of showing our identity. Jesus taught: “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*” (*John 13:34-35*) This also is an identity we cannot lose. We cannot lose our identity of Love, for “*He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*” (*I John 4:8*)

In today’s religion there are many who feel that their identity is based upon their numbers and the volume of their praise, but I beg to differ with this assumption. *Deuteronomy 7:6-7* says, “*For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people.” With these words from God, the Apostolic Assemblies of Christ cannot be intimidated by the great mass of people that we see on TV or be carried away with their exposure. God is not concerned with our numbers, but He is concerned with our walk with Him. Be ye holy for I am holy.*

We were brought to the knowledge of God through the Apostles’ doctrine and must continue in the Apostles’ doctrine. In the ensuing years we will see some, if not many, departing from the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. However, we must remain steadfast and unmovable in the apostolic teaching. Will there be pressures upon our pastors, congregations and conventions? Yes, there will be pressure on our pressure; but We Won’t Lose Our Identity.

Satan may feel that he has but a short time and judgment has already gone forth. The judgment is not where most of us might think. Judgment is already taking place in the House of God, and there is a falling away of some. The Apostle Paul wrote: “*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except*

there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?" (II Thessalonians 2:3-5)

The first part of Paul's writing and prophecy is already taking place. However, if our hearts are fixed and our minds are made up, *We Won't Lose Our Identity*.