

March 2017

Chat With The Chaplain

Just who are we anyway? Because of the culture we live in today, we have grown accustomed to the practice of proving to someone a dozen times a day just exactly who we are. Take just a minute and pull your wallet out and take a look at what kind of ID you might be packin' around. Before you and I could legally vote, drink and go to war, we presumably had just a driver's license. Besides giving us a legal ID, we now had the state sanctioned ability to create our own version of automotive mahem. After we came "of age", our number of ID's increased exponentially. We now had a collection of credit cards, each with it's own 16 digit number, and for some folks, enough of these to fill a small lunch box. Additionally, we had various licenses to work in a trade or profession, to fish or hunt, or any number of other activities. Then there's an endless array of membership cards for anything and everything you can imagine, and maybe some you haven't imagined. This of course must include a membership card to that little old outfit called ABATE.

So, where are we going with all of this? I'm glad you asked. Letting God's Word do the talking, we can look at

1 John 3:12 where it says, "But, as many as received Him (Christ), to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." And again, in 1 John 3:1 it says, " See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are." God bestows on us the 'identity' of a child of God if we 'receive' Christ as our Lord and savior. As Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." This is all pretty straight on I think, but I want to toss in another for good measure. It's a little lengthy so bear with me. In Ephesians 1: 3—5 it says, " Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His Will."

If you have trusted in Christ, then God has adopted you into His heavenly family. If then God has adopted you, then your ID is in Him as a child of God. With this new ID, you have what could be called 'sonship'. Now, your 'sonship' is a true membership; with no dress code – or bar code; with no expiration date, but instead, salvation, transformation, and a great expectation of what's to come.

In 1 Corinthians 2:9 it says, “.....as it is written ‘ Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him’ ”. If we took a little time to go back to the verse in Ephesians and just parked our truck there for awhile, and opened our spiritual eyes and ears to what God is saying here, we might see how this all ties in with this 1 Corinthians verse. God has gifted us with what we can’t get our brains around and, by the way, He has done it and is doing it all outside the constraints of time, because He invented time and maintains it.

Your identity means everything. The man in the TV add asks, “ What’s in your wallet? “. The question should be , “ What’s in your heart? “. If you ID yourself with the ‘world’ , then there are some serious problems built right in, not the least of which could be an eternity separated from God. If you instead, have ‘sonship’, then your name has already been written into the “Book of Life”. The Bible speaks of that Book in a number of places (Psalm 139:13—16; Revelation 3:5, 20:12, 20:15, & 21:27). There are more but check these out. God keeps a set of books, and all without a secretary. He is THE BOOKKEEPER.

Having said all that, how’s your “Identification” shaping up?

The BIBLE ----

B. – Basic

I. – Instruction

B. – Before

L. – Leaving

E. – Earth

Read God’s Word as often as you will and sow the seeds of eternity in your hearts !

WANTED ----- MORE BIKERS IN HEAVEN !!

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