**The Believer's Identity**

The word identity bears the meaning of sameness or oneness. Webster says that

it is the condition or fact of being the same in all qualities under consideration. In

addition, he says that it is the condition or fact of being the same as someone you

have claimed or assumed the role of, having put on their form or appearance.

        Just as there was no identity crisis in the original creation of man, there is no

identity crisis in the new creation of the believer. Adam was created in the image of

God and the believer is created in the image of Jesus Christ. When Adam fell into

sin, he put off the new man that God created and put on the old man in the body

of the sins of the flesh. When we fall into sin, we put off the new man created in Christ

and put on the old man in the body of the sins of the flesh.

        Our identity then can be twofold depending upon our choices. At any given

moment, we are either bearing the image of the old man or the image of the new man

which is Christ in us, the hope of glory. How then is Christ in us? Physically, he is at

his Father's side but spiritually he occupies and fills the new creature or new man

through his very own Spirit. Just as we choose to put on the new man and put off the

old man, we choose to be filled with the Spirit by choosing to walk in the Spirit under

the control of the very Spirit of Jesus Christ. It is here that we choose to bear the image

of Jesus Christ in oneness and sameness. It is here that we assume the role of the

someone that we have claimed and by choosing to walk in his Spirit, we choose to put

put on his form and appearance, or his very image.

        Romans 8:29 says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be

conformed to the image of his Son.”

        II Cor. 3:18 says, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of

the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of

the Lord."

     Let it be understood that our true identity, established by the creative act of Jesus

Christ at the time of our new birth, is one of sameness and oneness with that eternal

savior that we claimed as our eternal redeemer. Bearing his image, his qualities are

manifested in our lives as we walk under the control of his Spirit. According to II Cor.

3:18, we are changed into this same image through beholding or looking into the mirror

of God's Word. (glass) As we are instructed in our Lord's glorious being and qualities,

we are changed by the quickening power of the Word of God into the same image from

glory to glory, "even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

     This new image and new glory is imparted to the new man which we must choose to

put on, even as we must choose to put off the old man. This is where the believer's true

identity is established and nurtured from glory to glory, as we choose to walk consistently in the Spirit of God and of Christ Jesus.

So, how do we put on the Lord Jesus? Perhaps a clue to finding the answer could be found in the question, ‘How do we put off the new man or the Lord Jesus Christ’? Rm. 13:14 says, “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.”

Herein lies the answer to how we put off the new man and that being by fulfilling the lusts of our flesh, thereby making provision for the flesh. James 1:14-15 tells us that this provision is made when we allow our lusts to wed with evil enticements, by which conception, sin is born or brought forth.

Through the faithful and loving ministration of the Spirit, conviction unto repentance makes it possible for our great high priest to sprinkle our hearts with his blood, ridding us of our defiled conscience, which screams out our state of guilt. It is here that we put back on the new man which is created in righteousness and true holiness. It is here that we put on the Lord Jesus Christ and resume our residence in the throne room of the Father. From this point forward we make provision for the Spirit by walking in the Spirit in the presence of our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. It is here that we walk in the light as he is in the light and his word becomes a light unto our path and a lamp unto our feet. What a life! Praise be unto the Father and Son of glory.