

Message 7 in the Series: Just So You Know

Message: Identification Required

Text: 1 John 2:12-14

Many times, it is required of us to prove our identity; to provide an official, legal form of identification to substantiate that we are who we say we are. During these moments, who we are really matters.

Throughout John's 1st epistle we encounter many ID "checks" to determine if we are who we claim to be.

John describes:

- One who says they have fellowship with God yet walks in darkness, is presenting a false ID.
- The one who says, "I have come to know Him," but doesn't keep His commandments, is presenting a false ID.
- The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is presenting a false ID.

John goes on to write that our true identity is determined by the life we live.

As John addresses his readers, he verifies their spiritual ID to be valid.

1 John 2:12-14 (NASB) ¹² I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Who are John's readers? They are the children of God!

- They are ones who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, and through His name or "For His name sake" their sins have been forgiven.
- They know the Heavenly Father; the one who has been from the beginning

This is the identity issued to everyone who receives Jesus Christ.

In John's gospel he writes:

John 1:12 As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.

PRESENT I.D. TO SELF

Hebrews 6:18-19 (NASB) ¹⁸ ... "Take hold of the hope set before us. ¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil

One that enters the veil refers to Jesus as our high priest – at the right hand of the Father – He is "Our advocate with the Father." (1Jn. 2)

We must remind our self who we are!

- When the enemy brings up our past

- In our weaknesses
- During times of fear and/or doubt
- During times of uncertainty

PRESENT I.D. TO THE WORLD

- During times of persecution

We must not be afraid to tell the world who we are!

Mark 8:38 (NASB) ³⁸ "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

John 15:18-20 ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ "...If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you;"

Matthew 5:10 (NASB) ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

PRESENT I.D. TO THE ENEMY OF YOUR SOUL

- During times of temptation
- Against the spirit of fear

And as a child of God, you are an overcomer!

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, (A) and he will flee from you.

1 John 2:14 "I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

Our identity is in Christ through whom we have come under a new covenant made with us by God:

Jeremiah 31:33-34 (NASB) ³³ "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."