

A Great Day in the Kingdom – September 17, 2021

How do you identify yourself? Identity is defined by the fact of who or what a person is. Men and women share their identities in a variety of ways. Most of the time, if someone is male and retired, they share what vocation from which they retired. Women usually share more about their children than their vocation. Identity in a relative sense encompasses a variety of value systems. Christianity gives us an identity as to who we are in God's eyes, as His value system identifies us being His.

Around four and a half decades ago a young boy was asked by his teacher if the boy's Father was the new Methodist preacher in town. Not being a fan of either church, preachers or any identifying factors that could link him to such a narrative, they young boy replied, "No ma'am, my Dad drives an eighteen-wheeler and drinks a lot of beer." By the following evening a phone call was made. I heard my Mother and Father laughing in the other room, just prior to summoning me to explain. I remember thinking, "the whipping is worth it!" My Mother asked we why I would say such a thing. My quick response was, "I'm Joel Mark, not the preacher's son." Shockingly, I never got in trouble for that one. Sometimes we will make a great effort to avoid a certain identity. However, there is one identity we must always claim, "Christian."

You and I were purchased in the atonement, by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God created us to worship Him and mold His world into a better place. His original design was perfection and it was our free will that altered the story. Want to make the world a better place? Claim it! Live it! Identify with it!

Genesis 1:27, So God created humanity in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female.

We are not simply male and female, created by God. We are God's children. So, who are we? We are creations of God, loved by God, guided by God and Serving God. Now, that's an identity! Share your identity with someone who does not have one with God, as soon as you can.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, my identity is yours. Help me, I pray, to show the world, my identity in title and action. Thank You for Loving me. In the name of the Risen Christ Jesus, AMEN.