

## IDENTITY CRISIS (Romans 8:29)

**I Corinthians 6:19-20** We are often times disappointed when our encounters with people don't measure up to what we had expected of them. Unfortunately this is often also true of peoples encounters with Christians. Why do Christians often fail to measure up to higher expectations?

- **Disappointment with God – Numbers 14:1-4; John 11:32** The bible does not hide the fact that real people of faith have been disappointed with God. Both the Old and New Testaments give examples of people who were deeply hurt or angry because God allowed certain bad things to come into their lives which caused grief and pain.
- **Distraction – Deuteronomy 6:10-12; II Peter 1:1-15; Romans 12:2** Because of every day diversions and distractions the bible urges believers to keep their mind on God and His promises. We are not to forget the goodness of God and keep in remembrance what God has done for us. A lack of focus on our walk by faith will distract enough to hide Christ from others.
- **Dangerous relationships – I Kings 11:1-11; I Corinthians 15:33-34** There is little doubt that we are known by the company we keep. Nothing will give Jesus a black eye than a believer who has lost their testimony because of bad behavior. King Solomon was the wisest man ever but because of his lack of separation the kingdom was taken from him. Paul warns the church people that bad company will corrupt good character and begs them to come to their senses.
- **The Old Man – Romans 7 14-18; Galatians 5:16-21** Although believers have made specific changes in mind and deed toward God we have not overcome our struggle with self. In the life of believers we are not superior to non-believers in that we still have the capacity to serve the old nature of sin. When we give in to the flesh and do not give heed to the Spirit the downward pull of the flesh is as predictable as the law of gravity which brings everything down.
- **Pride – Proverbs 3:5-6; Luke 22:33; I Corinthians 10:12** God asks us to trust Him on His terms and not on our own. He wants us not to rely on experience or education but to rely on His judgment. He invites Himself into our lives in order to live through us and to help us. Sometimes our pride gets in the way of doing right as Peter found out the night of Jesus arrest. The bible is full of characters whose pride got in their way. King David was a great man of God and the greatest King of Israel but his pride got him to commit adultery and murder.
- **Lack Of Prayer – James 4:1-4; Matthew 26:41** Believers know that prayer is not optional for those who want to have a personal relationship with God. When we do not have a prayer life we can end up acting like a non-believer in that we become selfish and cold toward God and others. Jesus warned His friends to pray for Him and to help themselves from temptation. They slept instead and within a few hours they abandoned Him.
- **Unseen Enemy – I Peter 5:8; Ephesians 4:27; 6:10-18** Believers have a spiritual enemy that is trying to disrupt and confuse us every day. Unfortunately we ignore the fact that the devil is real and has his demons everywhere to fight us on every hand. Because of our being unaware and unprepared for the battle there are many casualties in the church. Satan is a predator that is always looking for vulnerable prey to kill and destroy.
- **Lack Of Accountability – Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 12:1-7, 20** When a person gets saved they do not develop into spiritual maturity on their own. Jesus taught His disciples to win people and teach people. Paul teaches us that we need to be with other believers and utilize our spiritual gift to make the church body stronger than it would be without us. We are accountable first to God but we are also accountable to each other. When we do not fellowship with believers we fall into the devils trap of going it alone which makes us vulnerable.