
A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Society has taken upon itself the duty of identifying you and me just like they identify non-believing people in the world. The method used for labeling is not concrete. The labeling criteria always changes. Society feels that its way of identifying people must change as society changes. Parameters for what is considered moral in our society do not remain constant either. There was a time when we as Bible believing Christians were called holy because we called homosexuality sin; just as the Bible calls it. Now, if we (Christians) say homosexuality is sin, we are called bigots, haters and homophobic. We are for-warned in scripture that these things are to happen. The Bible predicts that at the time of the end people will rather hear a lie than the truth. Based on these and other recent events (the Ten Commandments are a danger to our youth if displayed, no one knows when life begins in the womb, and we can't help whom we love) we are in the end times.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NKJV)

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Our nation's psychologists and psychiatrists have determined that addictions are diseases. However if someone has cancer and then is healed they are no longer considered diseased, but healed. Why then when God heals an addict the healed one is still called an addict?

It has been said that the devil knows our names but names us by our sin. Jesus knows our sin but names us forgiven. Therefore, no matter what the devil calls you, or what society calls you, or what science calls you, it's a case of mistaken identity. We are what God says we are; nothing more and certainly nothing less.

1 Peter 2:11-12 (NKJV) says:

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

According to this scripture, we are sojourners; temporary inhabitants of this world and pilgrims, travelers seeking a holy place. So what do we care what the inhabitants of this world call us? We're a people temporarily out of place on our way to heaven. According to Peter's exhortation, we should be more concerned about our Christian walk than the petty distorted descriptions with which the world wants to label us.

According to Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who* are in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

It is pretty obvious what light does in a darkened world, but why does Jesus call us salt?

Today we use salt as a seasoning for many things we eat. In colder climates, salt is used to melt ice and snow on our highways and streets. In the time of Christ, salt was a very valuable commodity. Roman soldiers were often paid for their service in salt. (Hence the term “a person is worth or not worth their salt.”). While these statements may be interesting to some, they don’t answer our original question: Why does Jesus call us salt?

To help you answer this question this lesson provides a few hints. We are going to let you try and answer the question based on the hints. In a future lesson we will include what most theologians say about the salt to Christian comparison. Stay tuned!

Here are your hints.

1. Salt has value.
2. Salt enhances taste.
3. Salt preserves.

There are other descriptions in the Bible concerning the saved. The following are probably the most recognized and most recited.

Romans 8:36-37 (NKJV)

³⁶ As it is written: *"For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Being more than a conqueror means that when we meet our adversaries in battle, we will totally overwhelm them. Satan is our adversary. His occupation is to kill, steal and destroy. He wants to kill our spirit, steal our joy, and destroy our relationship with Jesus Christ and those within our circle of influence. Many of the ways he attacks are listed in [Romans 8:35–39](#). Paul is exhorting us to stand firm in our faith when the enemy comes against us, reminding us that not only will we win in the end, but Jesus enables us to win now. Satan lacks the power to steal our eternal destiny, and he cannot separate us from the love of God.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Romans 8:35,38,39 (NKJV)

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or

famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For some of us, believing what God says about us will come with time and experience. For others, we will take God at His word now and enjoy the benefits of who we are in Christ immediately.

Let us end this session with this truth.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.