**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, August 4, 2020**

Good afternoon!

One of our foster daughters who lived with us some years ago would tell us that she identified with multiple personalities. Eight to be exact! Some days she would behave like herself, other days like a little girl named Karen, other days she was a much older person with a deep voice. One day we got a call from the school from our foster daughter’s teacher who informed us that she was having a hard time getting homework to be turned in. She said that when she would ask her for it our foster daughter told her that it was Karen’s job or possibly another of the eight who she was identifying with. The teacher let us know that she suggested to our foster daughter that she go home and have a meeting with all of her people! Then she should get the homework from whoever needed to be doing it, because if she didn’t hand it in the next day that she was the one that was going to get sent to the principal! Some folks in life are having an identity crisis!

If someone asked who are you, what would you say? I could say Mike but that’s my name not really who I am. If I responded a preacher, that would be more of what I do but not really who I am. I guess I could say that I am a New Yorker but then again that is more about where I grew up. Spiritually speaking, who I am is so much more than what we see on the outside. It’s all about who we are in Christ on the inside. You see if you changed my name, profession and home town, who I am in Christ does not change! The apostle Paul said “we recognize no man according to the flesh.” 2 Cor. 5:16. I believe that some Christians suffer from an identity crisis!

Here are just a few verses that tell us just who we really are in Christ!

I Am... Holy and blameless and beyond reproach. Colossians 1:22

I Am... The salt of the earth. Matthew 5:13

I Am... The light of the world. Matthew 5:14

I Am... Christ’s friend. John 15:15

I Am... A joint heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him. Romans 8:17

I Am... A new creature in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17

I Am... A saint. Ephesians 1:1

I Am... God’s workmanship. Ephesians 2:10

I Am... A citizen of heaven. Philippians 3:20

I Am... A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession. I Peter 2:9-10

Folks, it’s time to understand our identity! When we do it will result in how we live! Some people struggle with their self-worth! Self-worth for a Christian is not achieved from one’s giftedness, talent, intelligence, beauty, popularity, position in life or more. Self-worth is an issue of our identity! Self-worth comes from knowing who we are in Christ! We are children of God! We stand before our heavenly Father holy and blameless! Not sinless but blameless! Many Christians continue to describe themselves as sinners. Sure, we stumble and sin, but we are saints just the same! If you think of yourself primarily as a sinner you will live like one! From now on, instead of thinking of yourself as a sinner, think of yourself as a saint who occasionally sins! Identify with the saint that you are in Christ because we typically behave the way we believe! Amen?

Blessings,

Mike