

Identity Crisis

The word crisis refers to a turning point; a point in an illness at which the patient become definitely either better or worse. It is a point of an emergency where the least thing may bring about a change in condition. Identity is the distinctive individual characteristics that cause us to be who we are. But the word identity also means sameness or the state of exact likeness.

It seems as if we are at a crucial moment in time, a turning point in our history and the outcome depends upon our identity. This did not just start with this generation but it start when the first people asked the question, which is, “ Who am I really?” We have this trauma within us even though we fight hard for our independence yet we seek desperately to find some one with whom we share the same characteristics or likeness. We want to be able to identify with some one that why the world is always trying to come up with some one whom we can look up to. In identifying with someone or something one can receive a value or justification that was assigned to the identical one or thing.

I remember back in the sixties, when people of color started asking questions. What fueled the fire to find out was an absence of any accomplishments produced by people of color. There was such a void of information that one felt as if they had no value because we owed our whole existence to someone else. History was written up to that time that did not indicate any contributions made by people of color. But upon closer inspection and a great deal of research it was discovered that this was not the case. For you see people of color had contributed a great deal to the American society than was ever let on. And upon discovering this great wealth of history it was thought that this would change the outlook of the people since they were not just raised in a vacuum but have worth and value. But something strange happened because the more that was discovered did not change the way the people view themselves on the whole.

People often search for an exact likeness in the past in order to feel good and to justify their existence but this knowledge cannot propel them forward as it was hoped. It is hoped that our past will justify our present but the problem is that we don't go back far enough. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with god, and the Word was God. The same was in beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (John 1: 1-5). We are afraid to go back to the beginning. In the book of Genesis, which means the beginning, in chapter one and verse twenty-six is said, “ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...” And in the very next verse it says, So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” Wow! We don't have an identity crisis we have a refusal crisis. We refuse to accept the fact that we were created to look like Him, God Himself. We want to be able to identify with someone but we refuse to accept the fact that it is God, almighty, whom we are created to look like. You see, we want to identify where we came from but still justify our weakness, faults and imperfections. Romans 8: 29 tell us, “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conform to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” WE have been predetermined to look like Him. Now let's accept this fact and go on to grow into that image. And as far as the weaknesses that made be uncovered, well, “...all thing work for the good to them that love God...”(Romans 8:28). The only condition that was stated is that we love Him and it not that which is asked of any child of their father. He will work out the imperfection, which is His purpose, isn't it?

Prayer:

**Lord, help us to take a deep look inside ourselves.
And when we see You, help us to accept and grow.
Amen.**