

“Identity Theft”

Many parents, when expecting a child, especially their first born, often go through a laborious, but thoughtful process of elimination when trying to select the “appropriate” name that will “identify” their offspring for life.

On many occasions names are selected from extensive baby-name lists; some parents go to great extremes when choosing a name for their soon to come bundle of joy. Some parents think it’s in vogue to duplicate the names of “pop singers,” Hollywood movie stars, and other well known media personalities-depending on what might be the most “popular celebrity name” around the time of their child’s birth.

Christians often go right to the Bible to select an “appropriate child’s” name which carries a “distinctive meaning.”

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all of this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and she shall bring forth a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel,¹ which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matthew 1:21-23

When we hear the name, Jesus we associate it with Salvation, Savior, Redeemer, Creator and Friend.

Now this same Jesus, while delivering a prophetic message to His disciples spoke of identity theft that would be prevalent in the last days.

¹ Isaiah 7:14

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many... and many false prophets shall arise, and deceive many. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets and show great signs and wonders..." Matthew 24:5, 11, 24

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

During these perilous times in which we are living identify theft is a common occurrence. It has been reported that identity thieves will stop at nothing to gain access to an individuals private information, and important documents, via computer passwords, Face book friends, credit card numbers, bank accounts, and ITM pen numbers et cetera so that they may assume someone else's identity.

They will even stoop so low as to use the social security numbers of deceased people creating a phantom identity to access various financial accounts and other benefits.

What's in a name?

One's name is how they are identified and known, which will follow and/or precede that individual all the days of his or her life.

Notice the wise words of Solomon

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and having favour rather than silver or gold."

Proverbs 22:1

Would you change your name for popularity's sake?

"...and all the 'world wondered' after the beast..." Rev. 13:3

When God's Bible-based remnant people hear the name "Mystery Babylon The Great, 'Mother of Harlots' And

Abominations Of The Earth,” they know exactly who this portion of scripture, {Revelation 17:5} is identifying - the church of Rome located in Vatican city, and the apostate protestant churches that follow their mother, {the daughters of the harlot mother} drinking from the same cup of Babylonian wine, {false doctrine/teachings}.

The name “harlot” is not a name that Christian people want to be associated with, or identified by. However, God’s Word mentions two types of women, {churches} and the spiritual characteristics that ‘identify’ them both, {Rev. 12, & Rev 17&18}. One keeps “all” of God’s Commandments; has the faith, and testimony of Jesus. The other is the indeed the spiritual harlot full of abominations.

Most mainline Christian churches are ecumenical in their doctrinal beliefs except for maybe one or two main characteristics that they claim identify who they are.

For example; the Baptist faith believes in Baptism by emersion, {Amen} and a secret rapture, but still drink from the apostate cup of Rome. Lutherans who were followers of Martin Luther broke away from the Mother of Harlots, accepting righteousness by faith, {Amen} but are still sipping from the their mother’s cup.

Pentecostals, claim to be the tongue-speaking church of Pentecost, yet still enjoy Babylonian wine.

No disrespect is intended, but what ties all of the above churches together as one, is the trampling under foot of “God’s” fourth commandment.

In most instances there is only a microscopic difference between the counterfeit and the genuine, otherwise the counterfeit would be detected. And if God’s people are not studying God’s Word they will not discern the difference.

As previously mentioned mainline Christian churches have a ‘name’ that specifically ‘identifies’ them.

When one eradicates the given name of a specific church to make it ecumenically generic doctrinally, that church has lost its identity.

God the Father sent Jesus to give His life for His church. Revelation 12 is clear on what characteristics identify her. We understand through the teachings of the Bible the remnant church to be the Seventh-day Adventist Church, {no malice or arrogance intended}- Her “name identifies” who she is. The name: Seventh-day, because she keeps all of God’s commandments including the

Seventh-day Sabbath commandment. The name: Adventists because she awaits Christ's' Second Advent, or coming.

Counsel from God's messenger

“We are Seventh-day Adventist. Are we ashamed of our name, We answer, No, no! We are not. It is the name the Lord has given us. It points out the truth that is to be the test of the churches... That this must be, we must look ever to Jesus.”²

The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front, and will convict the inquiring mind. Like an arrow from the Lord's quiver, it will wound the transgressors of God's law, and will lead to repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”³

No name which we can take will be ‘appropriate’ but that which accords with our profession and expresses our faith and marks us a ‘peculiar people.’ The name Seventh-day Adventist is a standing rebuke to the Protestant world. Here is the line of distinction between the worshipers of God and those who worship the beast and receive his mark. The great conflict is between the commandments of God and the requirements of the beast...”⁴

Secret plot exposed

While in Salamanca, New York, {Nov. 1890} Ellen White received a vision, four months prior to a secret meeting. That particular vision would expose a covert plot by Albion Fox Ballenger, and other key church leaders who were in the process of changing the “individuality” of an important Seventh-day Adventist Journal.

Ballenger, {the ring leader} previously had been severely rebuked for teaching heresy concerning the church's sanctuary doctrine. Ballenger, at the time of Ellen White's Salamanca vision was the Secretary of the National Religious Liberty Association.⁵

² The Faith I Live By 304.4

³ Ibid. 304.5

⁴ Testimonies Vol. 1, p. 223

⁵ Lewis R. Walton. Omega II, pp. 87-120.

The Secret meeting

Behind closed doors of Clement Eldridge's office, the men began considering an idea that Ballenger supported. At that time the church published a religious liberty journal entitled the American Sentinel.

Why not make it more popular by dropping the name Seventh-day Adventist from the 'masthead,' {a news paper's title as displayed-with large letters on the front cover}? Why not take the idea one step further, and remove all references to distinctive doctrines such as the Sabbath?

By making the journal seem non-denominational, "the great men of the world would patronize it." Around the circle men's faces brightened with enthusiasm. The group "began to work on a policy that would make the Sentinel a popular success."⁶

Unbeknown to those who were to meet covertly at 5:30 am, the vague details of Ellen White's Salamanca vision four months prior was made graphically clear by an angel at 3:00 am on that same morning.

She was instructed by the angel to attend the minister's meeting and reveal the Salamanca vision.

The men were shocked when she showed up at the meeting and exposed the plight of their plot with explicit detail. This meeting took place in Battle Creek, and Ballenger with tears in his eyes acknowledged the vision was accurate and that he was on the wrong side of the question.⁷

We are not an ecumenical-generic movement, but a movement of destiny. We are God's remnant Biblical church-carrying the "Everlasting Gospel to the ends of the world. We are the "called and the chosen." We are Seventh-day Adventist-God's chosen agency on earth!

⁶ E. G. White. Manuscript, 29a 1890.

⁷ E. G. White Manuscript, 19a, 1891.

Beware of religious hierarchical schisms, in the name of unity with the 'ecumenical community,' that try to hijack your church's name- stealing her Biblical identity in the process!

