

# Identification - Holiness

by Charles William Butler

*Charles William Butler emphasizes the importance of identification with Christ in various aspects, such as material interests, life, and mission. He highlights the need for believers to be fully consecrated and aligned with the great objective of Christ in seeking and saving the lost. Butler stresses the significance of maintaining a strong identification with holiness, urging believers to uphold this truth and experience without compromise. He calls for a revival of true holiness preaching and the propagation of holiness through witnesses and special meetings.*

## Description

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## Transcript

identification-holiness.pdf" txtUrl: "/pdf-text/text/c/charles-william-butler---identification-holiness.txt" thumbnailUrl: "" hasTranscript: true oneLinerSummary: "The sermon emphasizes the importance of identification with Christ in our material interests, life, and mission, and the need for radical promotion of the truth of holiness to produce true witnesses and spread Scriptural holiness." sermonType: "expository" topics: - name: "Holiness Preaching" slug: "holiness-preaching" - name: "Christian Sanctification" slug: "christian-sanctification" bibleRefs: - text: "Psalm 16:11" bookId: "PSA" chapter: "16" verse: "11" - text: "Matthew 7:20" bookId: "MAT" chapter: "7" verse: "20" - text: "Matthew 25:40" bookId: "MAT" chapter: "25" verse: "40" - text: "Luke 19:10" bookId: "LUK" chapter: "19" verse: "10" - text: "John 15:5" bookId: "JHN" chapter: "15" verse: "5" - text: "John 17:17" bookId: "JHN" chapter: "17" verse: "17" - text: "Galatians 5:22" bookId: "GAL" chapter: "5" verse: "22" - text: "Colossians 3:4" bookId: "COL" chapter: "3" verse: "4" - text: "1 Thessalonians 4:7" bookId: "1TH" chapter: "4" verse: "7" - text: "1 Peter 1:15" bookId: "1PE" chapter: "1" verse: "15" outline: - heading: "Identification with Christ" - heading: "Identification in material interests" - heading: "Identification in life" - heading: "Identification in mission" faq: - q: "What does it mean to be identified with Christ?" a: "It means having a deep connection with Christ in our material interests, life, and mission." - q: "How does identification with Christ give us confidence and assurance?" a: "It gives us confidence and assurance because Christ knows and cares for us, and we can trust him in all our living." -

q: "What is the purpose of the holiness movement?" a: "The purpose of the holiness movement is to produce true witnesses for Christ and to spread Scriptural holiness as a vital experience." - q: "How can we maintain our identification with the truth and ministry of true holiness?" a: "We can maintain our identification by being radical in our promotion of the truth, being willing to take a stand even if it's considered extreme or fanatic by others." - q: "What is the ultimate goal of being 'in truth sanctified'?" a: "The ultimate goal of being 'in truth sanctified' is that the world may believe and know the truth, and that God may keep faith alive among men." quotes: - "When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." - "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." - "His presence disperses my gloom, and makes all within me rejoice." applicationPoints: - "We need to maintain our identification with the truth and ministry of true holiness, even if it's considered extreme or fanatic by others." - "We should be willing to take a stand for the truth and promote it radically to produce true witnesses and spread Scriptural holiness." - "The ultimate goal of being 'in truth sanctified' is that the world may believe and know the truth, and that God may keep faith alive among men." keywords: - "identification with Christ" - "holiness movement" - "true witnesses" - "Scriptural holiness" - "radical promotion of truth" - "faith alive among men" - "God-chosen method" - "genuine holiness" ---

Identification is an important and meaningful term. Christ identifies himself with them who are his, in several very important respects.

For instance, in the matter of essential material interests, there is his "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me." It is not cheap sentiment to say, "he knows and he cares;" it is a great Bible truth. What a basis for trust, and what a comfort in all our living! This affords us confidence and assurance against all the adverse experiences which may ever be permitted to come our way.

Then, too, we have a life which is identified with his life. "When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Identification of life and interest here identifies us with him with respect to future events. Hallelujah!

The fully consecrated believer identifies himself also with the great mission of Christ in his first advent. "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." The wholly saved believer lives with the same great objective. He is motivated by the same great passion of love, and lives to save men to God. No matter what he may do to pay expenses, his real purpose is to get men to God and see them prepared for eternity. During the years of my presidency of the "National Association for the Promotion of Holiness" I employed as a fellow-worker in many National Conventions that princely preacher, that godly man, Dr. John Owen. It was Dr. Owen who said regarding holiness, "No man is a true holiness man until he is identified with this truth and experience." To this we said then and we wish to re-emphasize it now, Amen, and Amen, and Amen! It gives us genuine concern when men once strongly identified with holiness seem to be less so as the years go by. While we have some things in common in our faith with our fundamentalist Calvinist friends, there is a sharp line of demarcation. The truth and experience of Christian holiness, and the movement as such, has in it an essential difference from all and every other emphasis of truth, so that we dare not compromise. Let us keep our identification. If we fail to do so, we shall fail in our sacred trust. We will become non-effective in our spreading of Scriptural holiness as a vital experience.

We must produce witnesses. When we fail in this, our failure is tragic; indeed, it is utter defeat. The holiness movement has the message; and if proclaimed, it will produce true witnesses. We need true holiness preaching. It needs to be definite. God's method for raising up witnesses must be insisted upon. It

is an instantaneous work of grace received by faith. In it God eradicates sin. Amen! In it he imparts the gift of positive righteousness to the believer, inbuilt by the blessed Holy Ghost.

The experience has in it the life and power for its propagation. When we tame down to a mild case, we have lost out. We need a revival of the experience which carries with it the passion for its own propagation. Holiness experience needs holiness food in the form of the preached Word, and in the definite fellowship which special meetings appointed for the purpose afford us. When we begin to advocate that all our meetings are holiness meetings, we are in danger. Let all holiness churches and missions, together with all units of Christian work that stand for and believe in holiness, put on special holiness rallies, meetings announced and devoted to special emphasis of this truth. Frequent short rallies are good. All-day holiness meetings are invaluable. Since true holiness is one of God's imperatives, we ought by all means to seek to get men to possess it.

Its value is to be measured by its exclusiveness. It excludes all bitterness of spirit, all envy and strife. It frees one's soul from resentment and harmful anger. It takes the lechery out of our natural passions, the covetousness out of natural ambition, and the self and strut out of natural pride. It includes a spirit of charity, kindness toward all, and perfects our love for a holy God. There is the absence of a man-fearing spirit and the man-pleasing spirit, and the presence of a supreme loyalty to God. It fills the believer with the light of a constant trust and the warmth of perfect love.

Holiness is a moral value that must be misunderstood or misrepresented to provoke opposition to itself or its possessor. Mr. Wesley said its opposers had to clothe it with the skins of animals before opposing it. Its possession spells victory in life and triumph in death. Let us get it at all costs. Let us keep it against all hazards. It is the secret of the Lord imparted to all who get far enough from all others and close enough to God to be told a secret.

It is the sweetness of inner life which makes God at home in the soul. In turn, it gives its possessor the secret of his presence. "His presence disperses my gloom, and makes all within me rejoice." Hallelujah! This glorious experience is now available to them who obey him. That obedience includes a humble faith which takes him at his word without sensible responses to feed upon. It just believes God because he says it, and refuses to doubt his immutable Word.

We need an identification with the truth and ministry of "true holiness" that will be reckoned as radical by those who simply acknowledge the truth, but who do nothing to promote it. A true identification with this truth will be reckoned as pure extreme and fanaticism by those who oppose it. But how such a stand with all it involves will feed and bless those who have the experience! And such a course alone will precipitate hunger for and real conviction for the experience. The sane but real test of preaching this truth as it ought to be preached is that witnesses will from time to time be produced. Even a witness who does not preach will, by contact with others, bring conviction of the truth to them. By this very means God proposes to keep faith alive among men. It is one of the great objectives of our being "in truth sanctified," "that the world may believe," "That the world may know." This God-chosen method works; it will be backed by the fruit of the tree's being good fruit. It works when it is genuine, and no cheap or compromising substitute will work. "Therefore, by their fruits ye shall know them." Amen! "Oh Lord, stir and revive us on lines of true holiness of heart and life," is my prayer.

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