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# THE ENEMY OF THE CHURCH

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In the Church, the enemy's strongest weapon is to keep individuals ignorant of their identity in Christ. If our self-image is destroyed we will not have the confidence to assume our authority. This is one reason why Christians feel victimized, abused and defeated. In Christ, we have spiritual gifts and authority but because we are ignorant of these, the devil has succeeded in destroying our perception of who we are and who we will be. God says,

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6)."*

Without confidence in our authority, we lack the ability and power to exercise our purpose and responsibilities as Christians. The result would be a Church "with spot and blemish, total unprepared for the return of Jesus". This is the ultimate plan of the enemy of the church. If we are to live victoriously and minister effectively, we have to know who we are and the significance of our true identity as spirit beings made in God's image. We must know that we are spirits, with a soul and occupy bodies (or earth suits as some people refer to it). We are Trinity – 3 in 1.

From the beginning we were created in the image of God:

*And God said; Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:26 KJV) For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor; Psalm 8:5. KJV)" The Revised Version of this text says, "But thou has made him a little lower than God, and crowned him with glory and honor."*

God is Spirit, and it is in that Image that we are made as well. However, God is three persons in One – The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we too are made in that likeness – the Spirit, Soul and Body. The knowledge of this fundamental anatomy of our being, is crucial to the Christian walk and unfortunately it is a knowledge that is lacking in the Body of Christ. Just like Jesus was entitled "Christ", we should be naming ourselves by our first names followed by "Christ" as our surname. That identity is the identity that the devil works overtime, through religion and other doctrines of devils, to keep the Church ignorant of.

When the Titanic was discovered where it sank in the North Atlantic in 1912, the encrusted remains bore little resemblance to its former acclaim as the world's most luxurious ocean liner. Similarly, the Church today bears little resemblance to the Church that God intends it

to be. Satan has infiltrated the Church with doctrines of devils and corrupted the truth with his lies. Much of his success has been due to the spirit of religion and resistance to change by most individuals who prefer to remain in their comfort zones. Therefore, we see that religion is an arch enemy of the Church and many Christians have more of an affiliation with religion than with the Holy Spirit, who fills us with the nature of God, which is Christ.

These Christians demonstrate little of the vibrant faith and love expressed by the early Church, having been devastated by luke-warmness and compromise. Happiness is a fleeting experience; growth is stunted; peace is fleeting and Christ in them is as a fantasy. They run from conference to conference, from crusade to crusade, following this preacher or that preacher. After the hype is over and they return to their homes, nothing changes permanently. Situations overwhelm them and they are often worse off than before because, whatever faith they did possess is shattered due to the transient nature of the experience.

Any change in the individual, their circumstances and consequently in the Church must take place by the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, which reflects our true identity and image.

Know who you are!

