

## One Cultural Identity

We have one national cultural identity all over the world wherever we have tribes and communities. The second part of Isa 49:6 is what Christians know as the great commission from Mt 28:18-20, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth. But they overlook the first part. In order to do that there has to be tribal unity. Our Master is held in heaven until there is that foretaste, that witness of the kingdom, until we put His enemies under His feet (Mt 24:14; Heb 10:13).

The enemies are what divide and separate people, making denominations, splits, and divisions. This came into the first church, and then it became Christianity. Now there are so many diversities in their doctrines. There can't be any diversity in the Trinity — there is no diversity between the Father and the Son, so neither can there be in the Body.

Those who belong to the Body of Messiah, who are saved, are one. There is no diversity if we are all under the same Spirit that teaches us all the same thing (Eph 4:4; 1 Cor 1:10). Everyone in the Body is under one anointing. We are one in essence just as the Father and the Son are one in essence. Essence is pureness, the same intrinsic nature, an indispensable quality. Our Master prayed for this before His crucifixion. We are not one numerically, just as the Father and the Son are not one numerically. We are not just one person; we are many persons, but one in essence.

All the Body of Messiah is going to be one before our Master can return and establish His kingdom. What is it going to take? How come it is hard for God to do it? We all have to be in tune with that one Spirit. We cannot just agree on a few essential doctrines. The Father and the Son agree on everything, not just on a few doctrines. There can be no esoteric members in the Body.

*Esoteric* means intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with special knowledge or interest. There are no big-class snobs in the Body. We are all equal, all one. There is no priest up there, and the people down here. We are all

one. We are a royal priesthood. There is no esoteric class in the Body of Messiah, such as the Jesuits, or some elite priesthood — “Doctors” or “Reverends” who go to Bible school to gain superior knowledge. We hear one another speak, and that’s how we are all taught by our Father.

That special knowledge causes diversity. It comes from the evil pride to compete with other people. It makes people drive 50 miles all over town just to hear a person who is more educated or more charismatic. In Bible schools they tell their students that if they don’t make the grade they’ll end up in some little country church.

That’s why there has to be a restoration and not a reformation. There have to be places where all the men lift up holy hands without wrath or dissension in every locality. 1 Tim 2:8 has lost all its meaning in Christianity.

There is no diversity in the one essence of the Body of Messiah, because whoever has joined himself to Messiah is one spirit with Him (1 Cor 6:17). That doesn’t mean that our spirit is divine, or that His Spirit is human. We are one in essence. All who are joined to Messiah are one in essence. They all agree. There is one Spirit that teaches us all things (1 Jn 2:27). There is no diversity in Messiah, which comes from university, where people get educated in different schools of thought and are separated in pride.

We have one national cultural identity (Jn 17:23).

Gen 10:5,20,30-32 — A separation took place between the three sons of Noah. The sons of Châm, Shem, and Yapheth went to separate territories on the earth, each having their own language and their own culture. To go across these boundaries causes confusion. If those who go across these boundaries don’t surrender to the culture they are entering, it ends up in prejudice, segregation, desegregation, and the like.

We all come from different cultural backgrounds in the Body. But then we lose our background culture and take on the national cultural identity. Culture is passed down from generation to generation. It can grow better and better as it is passed on. In these days in the world it gets worse.

Spain, England, Germany, Australia, South America — if you go to any of our tribes you will find the same culture. If you go there it's just like being here. It is the same spirit and the same culture. We have that cultural identity. As members of the twelve tribes we must live out our cultural identity. In Messiah there is no separation between Jews and Gentiles because of different backgrounds. We are all one. We are made new and forget the past. There is no superior culture in the Body of Messiah. We are one race, a chosen race (1 Pet 2:9).

Even the Germans and the French can get along in the Body. All the different nationalities are not a problem in Messiah, because all this is past, and now we are all sons of God (Gal 3:28,26). The sons of God are the many brothers of our Master. They all come from the same Father. Our Father teaches us all the same. There is no denominationalism among the sons of God. Paul condemned it. Is Christ divided? There is no separation in Abraham's offspring. There is no division over the Shabbat, dietary rules, etc. There is no problem there, not in any way. Jews and Gentiles are one. Both Jews and Gentiles are grafted into the same cultivated olive tree.

In Messiah we have one identity. We are identified with one another. The world is very diverse and disintegrating. It is very difficult for people to come into another culture. Americans go to Mexico and won't take on the culture there. They only speak English. It causes separations and hurt. People of different denominations are trying to get together. It's impossible, just like different cultures trying to get together without giving up their own culture.

*Esoteric* describes a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest. There is another word, *exoteric*, which applies to those in the circle (Mk 3:34) who share the same knowledge and interest. Any church that does not gather in a circle is false. Paul said that we should speak and sing to one another. In order to do that, you have to look at each other. That's where the word *church* comes from.