**Identity Markers**

1. **Scripture Lesson**

Matthew 3:1-12 (ESV)

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,**2**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” **3**For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Preparethe way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” **4**Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5**Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, **6**and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **7**But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8**Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. **9**And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. **10**Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11**“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12**His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

1. **Introduction**



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1. **Big Idea**

**The identity markers of God’s people are traced to the fruits of repentance and faith not to appearance, words or ancestors.**

1. **Counterfeit Followers**

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1. **Gospel Followers**

“Repentance and faith are the life of a believer and can never be separated. As John Calvin well reminds us, this is true not only of the beginning but of the whole of our Christian lives. We are believing penitents and penitent believers all the way to glory.”

**- Sinclair Ferguson**

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1. **Conclusion**

**“**Identity Amnesia is a misunderstanding and replacing our identity in Christ.

Identity Amnesia is powerful and potentially destructive. Here's the critical issue: you either define yourself vertically, or you'll end up defining yourself horizontally. Horizontal identity is rooted in things like my success, my relationships, my righteousness, or my possessions.”

**- P.D. Tripp,** “Getting Identity Right”

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