

Are we losing our

Distinctiveness

as the people of God?





Judges 2:7-10

7 And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of the Lord which He had done for Israel.

8 Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of one hundred and ten...

10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.

Deuteronomy 6:4–7

4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

5 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

6 “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.....

7 “You shall teach them diligently to your sons.....

10 “Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land ...

12 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

What Happened?



1. God chose Israel to be a distinct nation.

2. The Law

3. The

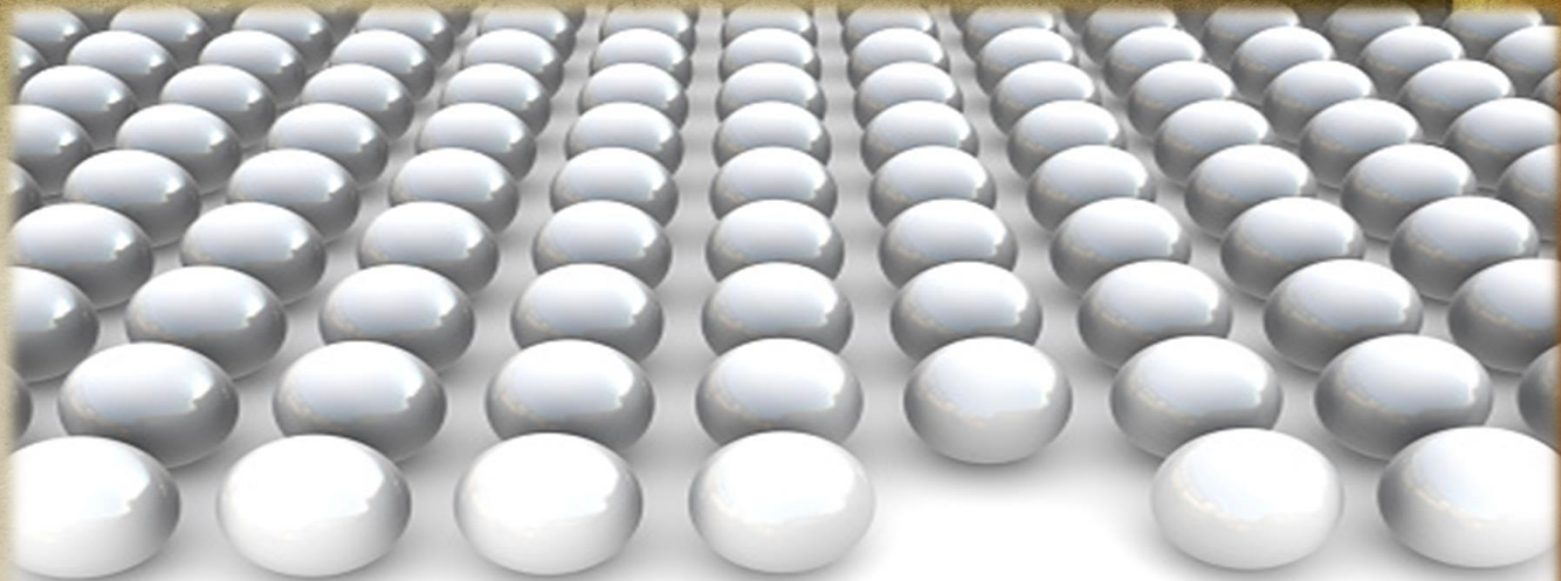
4. Children

5. They

**They lost sight of
their
DISTINCTIVENESS
as the people of
God!**

KNOW.

Diary,



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God's Eternal Purpose

Ephesians 3:10-11

To Establish His Church / Kingdom

Founder Christ

Place Jerusalem

Time A.D. 33

Head Christ

Creed New Testament

One Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Word of God..... Rom. 10:17

Believe John 8:24

Repent of Sins..... Luke 13:3

Confess Jesus Rom. 10:10

Baptism For Remission of Sins Mark 16:16

Be Faithful Till Death..... Rev. 2:10

One Plan For All Men

Saved Added To The Body

Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13

One Body Ephesians 4:4

One Kingdom Matthew 16:19

One Church Ephesians 1:22,23

No Mention of ANY Denomination!

Organized By God's Plan

Local Church Organized

Elders

Deacons

Preachers

Teachers

Other Members

Acts 14:23

Philippians 1:1

Ephesians 4:11-16

**No Denominational Organization. Nothing Larger,
Nor Smaller, Than The Local Church.**

Wearing God's Designations

- Church of God1 Cor. 1:2
- Church of the First Born Heb. 12:23
- Churches of Christ Rom. 16:16
- Body of Christ Col. 1:24
- Bride of ChristRev. 21:2
- House of God 1 Tim. 3:15

**Notice, Not One Denominational Name
Mentioned In Scripture!**

Wearing God's Designations

ChristiansActs 11:26

Saints Rom. 1:7

Children Gal. 3:26

Disciples John 16:8

Priests1 Pet. 2:5

Brethren Gal. 6:1

**Not ONE Denominational Affiliation
Suggested In Scripture!**

Christ-Centered Lives

Jesus Is Our Pattern for living... 1 Pet 2:21

Christlikeness is our goal... 2 Pet 1:3-7

**The “fruit of the Spirit” lives within...
Gal 5:22-23**

**A Way of life that touches every aspect of
your life!**

Saved Worship Collectively

Lord's Supper Acts 20:7

Bible Study Acts 20:7

Prayer 1 Thess. 5:17

Singing Eph. 5:18

Giving 1 Cor. 16:2

No Denominational Worship – No Instrumental Music, Choirs, Praise Bands, etc.

Saved Work Collectively

Evangelism Acts 13:3

Edification Eph. 4:11-16

Benevolence Acts 11:27-30

**No Family Life Social Centers – No
“Mother’s Day Out” Day Care – No Secular
Education Institutions.**

Stage #1 – Distinctive truth is taught and practiced

Stage #2 – Truth believed and practiced, BUT for whatever reason, teaching stops.

Stage #3 – Misunderstandings develop, but little is said about them, they are not voiced or brought into the open.

Stage #4 – False teaching, teachers, and practices arise.

*How Easy And Subtle It Becomes To
Depart From This Distinctive Pattern*

Spoken Misunderstanding

1. **Vocal Music – Preference, not doctrine.**
2. **Baptism – a symbol of salvation.**
3. **Relationships, rather than right, form the basis of fellowship and acceptance.**
4. **Lord's Supper a common meal.**
5. **Women preachers.**
6. **Elders over more than one church.**
7. **Fellowship with denominations.**

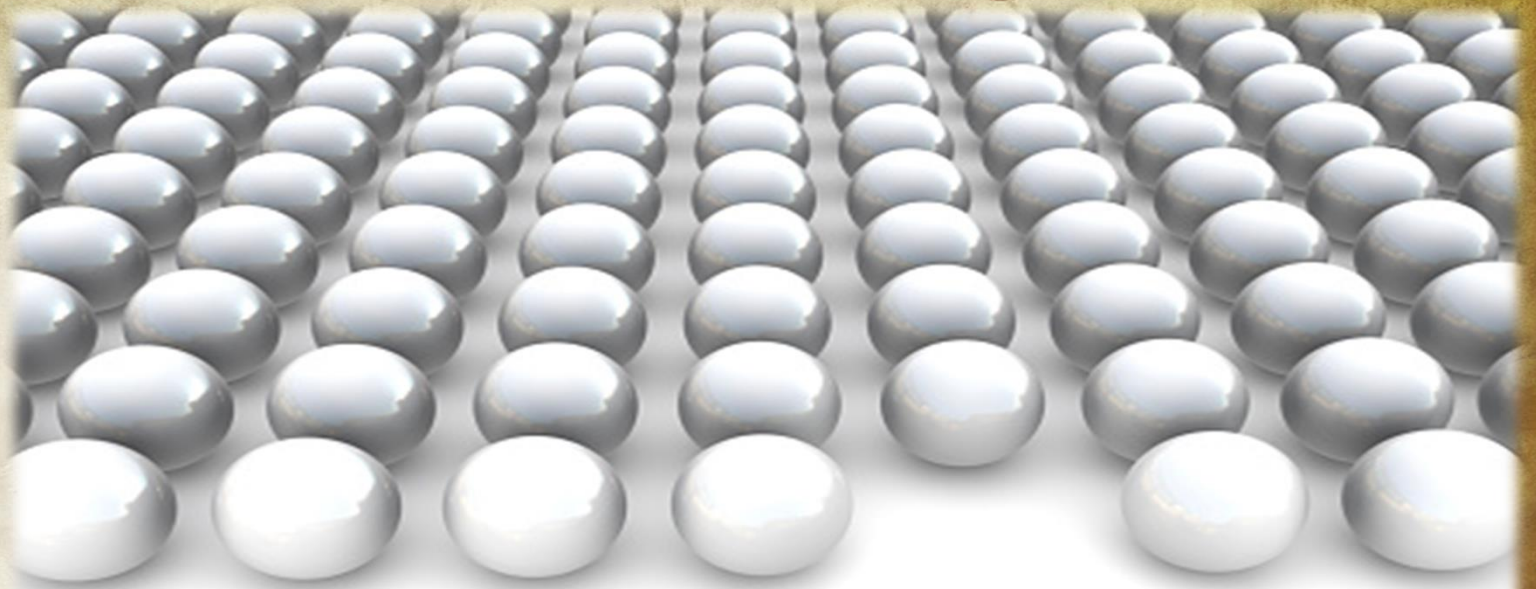
How Do We Respond?

1. Know the word... Jn 8:32
2. Be skilled in its use... 2 Tim 2:15
3. Preach and teach it plainly... 2 Tim 4:2
4. Have no participation in unscriptural practices...
Eph 5:11
5. Have no fellowship with false teachers... 2 Jn 9



1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a **CHOSEN RACE**, a **ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**, a **HOLY NATION**, a **PEOPLE FOR GOD’S OWN POSSESSION**, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”



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