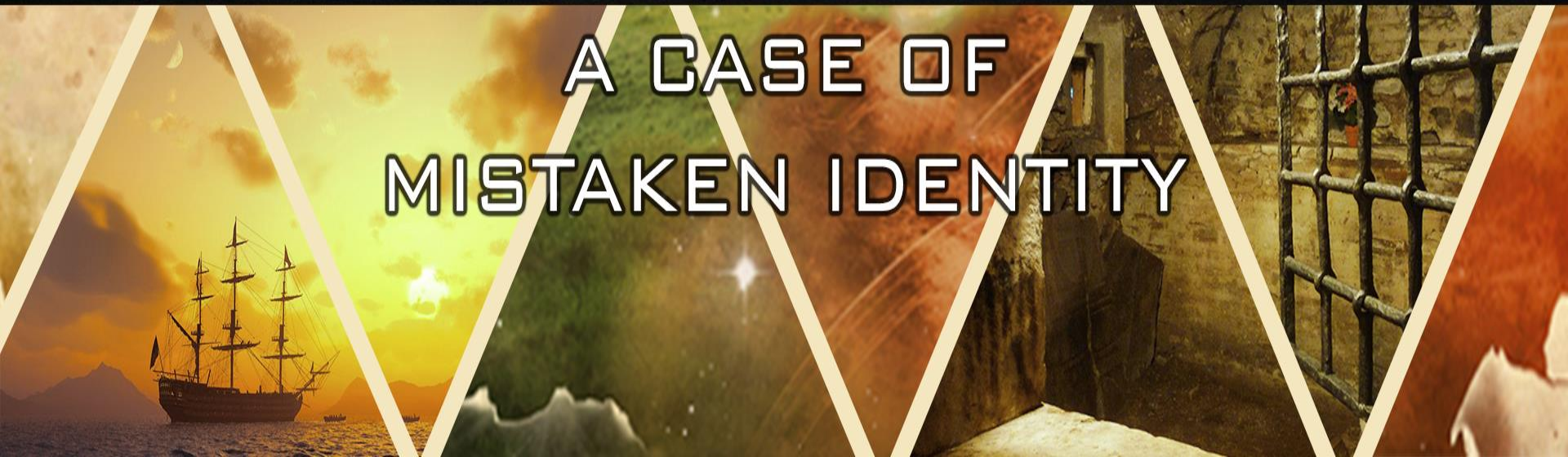




ROMANS

A CASE OF
MISTAKEN IDENTITY



Introduction:

Larry urged his Dad to quit smoking.
Dad's answer was, "This is WHO I
AM!" How do YOU identify yourself?

Text: Romans 2:12-29

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.)

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They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

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**This will take place on the day when
God judges people's secrets through
Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.**

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Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark,

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an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?

You who preach against stealing, do you steal?

You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?

You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?

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As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised.

**So then, if those who are not
circumcised keep the law's
requirements, will they not be
regarded as though they were
circumcised?**

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The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.

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No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

Romans 2:12-29

Many people want:

To be **IDENTIFIED** with
STATUS and **SUCCESS**. Do you
remember the days of **DRESS** for
SUCCESS?

The benefits of a sterling
REPUTATION, even when they
haven't **EARNED** one.

EXAMPLE: The false resume.

“PERCEPTION is REALITY,”
could be the motto of our culture.

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What was true of Jews in Paul's time is true of Christians today. True Christian **IDENTITY** isn't found in:

T-SHIRTS or
BUMPER STICKERS.

FLAGS.

POLITICAL affiliation.

LABELS, but rather in a **LIFE!**

When you **LIVE** as Jesus **LIVED**, and
LOVE as Jesus **LOVED**, you mark
yourself as a Christian!

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Conclusion:

Are you a believer merely in name, or does your life reflect belief in Jesus Christ?



ROMANS

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