

# The Danger of Labels

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We do not recognize or respect one another's gifts and callings. We do not even recognize and respect our own gifts and callings.

We limit ourselves and one another with labels. All labels come with limitations. We take our identity from our jobs, our relationships, by things that have happened to us, by things we have done, by our property, by what others say about us. If suddenly stripped of our jobs or our stuff, we go into crisis.

We label one another as a shortcut. This superficial judgment saves us from actually getting to know one another. Psychologists will tell you that it is natural and normal to do so, but is it godly?

*Matthew 7:1-2 Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*

*Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.*

We seek to label ourselves, as a way of finding our place in the community and in the church. We fret if we don't know what we're called to, desiring to find some cozy cubby hole that tells us and everyone else that we are "\_\_\_\_\_." It makes us comfortable to have a designation even when the designation itself limits us.

As much as we desire to be called of God, when we are called we tend to answer with our labels. When God called Moses, Moses began immediately giving God all his labels as reasons why he couldn't do what God was calling him to do. Gideon did the same thing. God told them what their true identities were, but they believed in their labels more than in their God. What is the truth? It is not necessarily what others say about us or what we say about ourselves. The truth is what God says about us. Whatever fails to line up with that is a lie.

*1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

*John 6:41-42 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?"*

When Jesus was in Nazareth he could not do many miracles because they had labeled him. If labels could quash the anointing of Jesus, what are we doing to one another?