

Series: "Ephesians: Discovering Our Riches in Christ"

"Who Am I?"

Ephesians 1:1-2

January 27, 2008

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This past December the Staff and families got together at our Worship Pastor (Pastor Greg) and his wife Carla's home for our annual Christmas party. We had a wonderful time of food and just talking and getting to know each other in a casual setting. Mark Brandenburg, our new Director of Church Administration was in charge of the games for the evening. So Mark decided that one of the games that we would play was "Who Am I?" Have you ever played it?

You write the name of a person or a thing on a paper (or sometimes it is a picture) and you tape it to everyone's back.

SLIDE – How to Play the Game

- Have each person ask another person questions to help them figure out what is on the paper. The questions must be answered with a 'yes' or a 'no'.
- When a person figures out the name or the picture on their back ...they win!

Questions

Am I alive?

Do humans eat me?

Would you use me every day?

Do I have fur?

Do I need gasoline?

Do I cost more than \$100?

There is another version of this game "Who Am I?" that some of you may be familiar with and that is the game where you describe something about the person and you guess by way of multiple choice who it is. Here is an example...

SLIDE – Who AM I? Question 1:

When you fall snowboarding, this person reads your x-rays to see if you broke your wrist.

Optometrist Pediatrician Radiologist

SLIDE – ANSWER

SLIDE – Question 2

When there's a problem with the lighting on a movie set, the crew looks to this person for help.

Boom Operator

Gaffer

Cinematographer

SLIDE – ANSWER

SLIDE – Question 3

This person collects and studies stamps, usually as a hobby.

Philanthropist

Psychiatrist

Philatelist

SLIDE – ANSWER (full lat list)

SLIDE – Question 4

Without this person, your dad may drive the family to Portland, Maine, rather than Portland, Oregon.

Aviator

Oceanographer

Cartographer

SLIDE – ANSWER

We have just recently begun studying the book of Ephesians on Sunday mornings here at Bethany and the main issue or item that is talked about right out of the shoots; just as we begin the book is this issue or item of "Who Am I?"

SLIDE –Pg. 1156

Take your Bibles, please and open them to the New Testament book of Ephesians 1. If you didn't bring your Bible with you today I would encourage you to reach forward and grab that burgundy colored Bible and turn to page 1156. (1st Service – Video Café – Raise hands for a Bible and someone will come by and hand you one! Keep it up!)

If I were to ask you today, "Who are you?" what would you say? Well, if you were me you would most likely respond with... "I'm Corey Sateren!"

But, you see, that's my name. That's not who I am.

I might say, "I'm a Pastor"

No, that's what I do!

"I'm an American!"

No, that's where I live!

"I'm Evangelical Free!"

No, that's my denominational preference!

I could say that I'm five feet ten inches tall and a little over 150 pounds! (Okay...quite a little over 150 pounds!)

But my physical dimensions and appearance are not me either.

- If you chopped off my arms and legs would I still be me?
- If you transplanted my heart, kidney or liver would I still be me?
- If you keep chopping you will eventually get to me because I'm in here somewhere!

But the point is "Who I Am" is far more than what you see on the outside or what is on my inside!

So how do we find out who we are? AS A CHRISTIAN it all begins by seeing ourselves as God sees us.

READ vv. 1-2

SLIDE – How Does God See Us?

First...

SLIDE –

1. We are Sent Out

Do you see the word "Apostle"?

SLIDE –

Apostle - comes from two Greek words...

"apo" - from

"stello" - send out

One sent out by or from someone else...here Paul says he is "*an Apostle (sent out from) Christ Jesus by the will of God.*"

In the simplest sense Paul is telling us that it was Jesus Christ Himself by order of God the Father that chose Paul and made him a messenger or representative of Christ's.

Now we understand that from a technical sense there was only the original (what shall we say...) 14 apostles (12 if we include Judas; then Matthias who took Judas' place; and Paul). After those there were no more. We don't have people walking around today that are technically called or hold the office of an Apostle. If you hear of someone call themselves an apostle in the technical sense - beware!

But, in the practical sense any Christian is an apostle - one sent out to the world by Jesus Christ as His representative to say and convey what He wants us to convey (which is truth and the gospel).

Now you might say, "*Well, that is the apostle Paul! I really don't think I have been chosen by God to be His representative.*" Whoa! Would you look with me at v. 3 READ!

You see, just as Jesus Christ chose Paul to be His representative; "*God chose us before the foundation of the world*" to be His representative!

Now why do we need to know that?

Because if we know that God chose us it tells us that we have His power and authority to represent Him wherever we go! Think about it! If we are in the role of an Ambassador of the U.S. - a sent one representing our country - we speak both what our country wants us to speak as well as with the authority that goes with our country.

As a Christian - I speak with the authority of God who sent me to represent Him! And you speak with the authority of God if you are a Christian.

You see, too many of us believe when we speak...we are speaking our own words on our own behalf and "*why would anyone want to listen to me?!?*" And I agree!

Our problem is we forget we are apostles; ambassadors; messengers; and sent out ones representing God and with the authority of God!

Now it doesn't mean we should expect everything to go our way or everyone to respond to us in a positive manner. They didn't with God. But I do speak what God wants me to speak in the manner/tone/attitude He wants me to speak it and leave the authority issue up to Him! He will either turn their hearts to Him or not! It is up to Him! HE has the power...not me. I just speak representing Him!

SLIDE – So what does knowing this supposed to do for me?

I'm glad you asked! It is supposed to do three things:

- Remind me of my responsibilities (sent out)
- Refresh me of my abilities (chosen)
- Relax me of my fears (because He is who they answer to, not me. I just do my part! And if I'd see ME as one 'sent out' because I had been chose by God Himself and given His authority...I would relax!)

Who else am I? How else does God see me?

SLIDE –

2. We are Set Apart

Do you see the word “Saint”? READ v. 1
Hold on to your seats now...

SLIDE –

Saint - comes from the Greek word...

“hagios” - means ‘set apart for God’ or ‘holy one’

You say, “*Okay! I draw the line here! I know I’m not holy!*” I’d say, “*Roger that!*” But the idea isn’t that all my actions become holy; that I no longer do anything wrong; or that I become perfect in my actions. The idea is that I am positionally holy! Because I have received Christ as my Savior all my sins are wiped clean and I am looked on by God as ‘holy’ or ‘without sin’.

It refers to anyone who has become a Christian; anyone who has believed in and received Christ as his or her personal Savior. So, if you are a Christian; if you believe in Christ and have committed your life to Him - you are set apart for God! You are “*hagios*”! You are holy! You are a saint (from God’s point of view)! Make sense!

You see, if God didn’t look at you and me as holy then we couldn’t go to heaven to live with Him because He is holy and will only allow holiness into His presence! This concept of being a saint (holy) conjures up the wrong images in our minds. We think of ‘perfect’ people when we hear of saint and say, ‘I know that’s not me’! But that is not what ‘saint’ means. EVERY BELIEVER IS A SAINT.

APPL:

So the next time you meet a believer you could rightfully address them as “*Saint _____*”. In fact, turn to your neighbor and greet them as...NO!

SLIDE – So what does knowing this supposed to do for me?

I’m glad you asked! It is supposed to do three things:

- Gives me a new outlook on life (Wow! Think about it. God doesn’t look at me as a loser; a low down, no good, rotten sinner. He looks at me as holy! He accepts me! He loves me!)

SLIDE – Neil Anderson in his book Victory Over the Darkness:

Understanding ‘Who You Are’ in Christ is absolutely essential to your success at living the Christian life. No person can consistently behave in a way that’s inconsistent with the way he perceives himself. If you think you’re a no-good bum, you’ll probably live like a no-good bum. But if you see yourself as a child of God who is spiritually alive in Christ, you’ll begin to live in victory and freedom as He lived. Next to knowledge of God, a knowledge of who you are is the most important truth you can possess.

SLIDE – So what does knowing this supposed to do for me?

- Gives me a new outlook on life
- Generates excitement to live for Him

If God already looks at me as holy then I live from my position and not to gain a position! I have nothing to prove! I just enjoy living the Christian life! I know I’ll sin, but I’m like the apostle Paul - “*The things that I don’t want to do; that I do. The things I want to do; that I don’t do.*” (Ever been there? And then get down on yourself?) God doesn’t want us to lose sight of the fact of my position in Christ!

SLIDE – So what does knowing this supposed to do for me?

- Gives me a new outlook on life
- Generates excitement to live for Him
- Guarantees my eternal life

If I am made perfect; all my sin is taken away; then I am holy and can go to heaven and be in the presence of the Lord! Guaranteed!

Who else am I? How else does God see me?

SLIDE – We are sent out; we are set apart...

3. We are Served Up

Do you see the words “Grace & Peace”? READ v. 2
“*charis*” - undeserved and unmerited favor of God

We will look at all of these favors; riches; blessings beginning next week!

You’ve seen the acrostic before on the ‘grace’ of God!

SLIDE –

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

Who are we? How does God see me?
As one who is Served Up with Grace and Peace!

SLIDE –

“eirene” - to bring harmony to two items that are broken or divided.

And of course it means God & man/us were divided.

Now there is harmony between the two!

We get our English word ‘serene’ from it which means clear and free of storms!

Do you see what we are served up?

We are served up undeserved & unmerited favor of God, and...

Total harmony with Him!

ILL. -

Emancipation Proclamation

[John 1:12](#)

[John 15:15](#)

[Romans 5:1](#)

[1 Corinthians 6:17](#)

[1 Corinthians
6:19-20](#)

[1 Corinthians
12:27](#)

[Ephesians 1:3-8](#)

[Colossians 1:13-14](#)

[Colossians 2:9-10](#)

[Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

[Romans 8:1-2](#)

[Romans 8:28](#)

[Romans 8:31-39](#)

[2 Corinthians
1:21-22](#)

[Colossians 3:1-4](#)

[Philippians 1:6](#)

[Philippians 3:20](#)

[2 Timothy 1:7](#)

[1 John 5:18](#)

[John 15:5](#)

[John 15:16](#)

[1 Corinthians 3:16](#)

[2 Corinthians
5:17-21](#)

[Ephesians 2:6](#)

[Ephesians 2:10](#)

[Ephesians 3:12](#)

[Philippians 4:13](#)

Who I Am In Christ

I am accepted In Christ

I am God's child.

As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.

I have been justified.

I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.

I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.

I am a member of Christ's body.

I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

I am complete in Christ.

I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus.

I am secure

I am free from condemnation.

I am assured that God works for my good in all.

I am free from any condemnation brought against me.

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.

I am hidden with Christ in God.

I am confident that God will complete the good work in me.

I am a citizen of heaven.

I have not been given a spirit of fear.

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I am significant

I am a branch of Jesus Christ.

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

I am God's temple.

I am a minister of reconciliation for God.

I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.

I am God's workmanship.

I may approach God with freedom and confidence.

I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

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