

KNOW WHO YOU ARE



And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.

John 13:2-5

"Knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, that he had come from God and was going to God."

Jesus knew who he was.

The False Reference

The reason we have such a difficult time laying aside our garments and washing feet is that we're still trying to find out who we are.

Most of us have a very shaky sense of our own identity.

We're like a man who wakes up on a plane and can't remember his own name, or where he came from, or where he's going; hoping with all his heart that when the plane lands he'll meet some familiar face at the terminal that will bring it all back to him.

To be poor in spirit, to be meek and lowly of heart does not mean to be forever in a panic trying to figure out who we are....

....But to be secure enough inside about who we are that we can cheerfully face the truth of our utter need of God's mercy.

The problem among believers is that instead of finding themselves by losing themselves in God, they lose themselves by trying to find themselves in the eyes of men.

We're living in a world where everybody keeps losing track of who he is, where everyone's self-image keeps blowing up in his face because it's founded on human opinion rather than the Spirit of God.

Here's a woman who when she entered into marriage a few years ago was strikingly beautiful and overflowing with happiness. Now she has three children, a husband who lives for ABCs "Wide



World of Sports," days filled with sickness and boredom. The walls are closing in. If you asked her if she's the radiant bride who walked down the aisle a few years ago she'd laugh in your face!

Take a look at her husband. He had great plans for his life --- once. But now his whole personality looks like it's been spin--dried. He's resigned himself to a monotonous job, boring home life, whining children, complaining wife, and escapes into T.V., hockey, base-ball and football. He has long since lost track of who he is. His mind is shriveled and getting smaller every day. And these people we watch on our television and read about in Time Magazine, whose lives seem so interesting; most of them have about as good a grip on who they are as on that bar of soap in the bottom of the bathtub.

They have the same anxieties about their identity, the same emptiness, the same inner desperation as the rest of the population.

Ever since the fall of man, humans have tried to establish who they are by comparing themselves with their fellow man. Cain looked at his brother Abel with envy that turned to murder because Cain only knew who he was with reference to Abel; and it made him sick. Korah, Dathan and Abiram and the two hundred and fifty who challenged Moses in the wilderness were trying to find their identity with reference to Moses. "Who do you think you are, Moses? You're no better than the rest of us!" (Moses never said he was.)

The Pole Star

But in the Kingdom of God we know who we are not by comparing ourselves with someone else, but from within – ever knowing who we are in relation to God.

He is the pole star.



Outwardly we travel a road that gives us little reassurance as to who we are.

If we don't know who we are and keep knowing, we'll soon be swallowed up by the dullness, the monotony, the hard things that come to us, and open ourselves to seducing spirits.

It happens to many believers. They travel well for a while. Then circumstances become rough. And when they get no assurance from outward sources or admiring friends, they become victims of whatever lying spirit tells them something nice.

...Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.

John 13:3-5

This man, washing the feet of his friends like a slave, suffers no identity crisis.



He is able to serve so freely because he knows who he is in relation to the Father. Knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, that he had come from God and was going to God, he was able to lay aside his garments and serve.

A person who is in doubt about who he is can never do such things.

"For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me."

II Timothy 1:11-12

Paul is able to suffer as he does and not lose his mind because he knows who he is in relationship to the true and living God. He knows who he belongs to, where his anchor is.

To survive the storms and eerie calms and continuously live in the mind of God, which is mercy, free of the need to find our identity in circumstances, or our comfort in lying spirits, we must know who we are, not as some idea we read in a book, but as blazing inner truth.

It's up to us to know and to keep knowing who we are.

Know Who You Are



1. It's up to you to know and keep knowing that you are a redeemed child of God.

But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And be-cause you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son. into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

Galatians 4:4-7

A son of God --- male or female --- born of his nature, redeemed and set free from those things that kept you in bondage to your old nature. And the proof that God has adopted you as a son is that you have the Spirit of the Son crying in your heart, "Abba! Father!"

The man or woman who takes hold of this truth and bases their life on it will begin to experience its reality. The old chains that bound you will fall away and you will start living, thinking, praying, choosing, conquering, like a son of God.

2. It's up to you to know and keep knowing that you are a chosen vessel.



You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

John 15:16

Long before you ever heard of Jesus Christ he knew you and he chose you to be his disciple. And now he ordains you to go and bring forth fruit that will last.

He didn't choose us because we're so talented, or so kindhearted, or so spiritually inclined.

He chose us as living evidence of the mercy of God.

If he can save us he can save anybody!

If he can use us he can use anybody!

So how can a chosen vessel have an identity crisis?

Only by taking its eyes off the One who chose it and by starting to compare itself with other vessels.

Peter was chosen to do what Peter was ordained to do, not what John was ordained to do. "If I want John to tarry until I come, what's that to you? Follow me. Keep your eye on your own work and leave your brothers and sisters work alone."

3. It's up to you to know that you have been called into a royal priesthood.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9



And what does this priesthood do?

Everything the Messiah, the High Priest does.

It enters into his work of worshiping the Father and serving him night and day, ministering the life of God to the world through the blood of the Lamb, and above all interceding, praying.

The best place to discover again and again who we are in relationship to God is in prayer – especially intercessory prayer.

As we pray for others by name, faithfully lifting them before the Throne for blessing we will know that we are indeed members of a royal priesthood and we will see life descending from heaven upon those for whom we pray.

4. It's up to you to know and keep knowing that you are on your way to glory.

Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 3:2-3

"Knowing that he had come from God and was going to God."

Knowing that in spite of the humiliating and agonizing things that lay directly ahead he was on his way back to the glory of the Father.

If we allow ourselves to lose sight of the goal we make ourselves vulnerable to every false goal, every distraction the enemy dangles in front of our minds.

We are on our way to a place where all the glory for which we were made, all the good our hearts have ever longed for, the beauty of the living God to which the whole universe sings in harmony will be visible to our eyes. We will see his glory, we will hear unspeakable music, and we will taste unimaginable delights.

And the assurance that this glory waits for us is that the foretaste of all this is ours now through the Holy Spirit.

But it's up to us to know and keep knowing where our destination really is.



Who we are is clearly connected to where we're headed.

If I forget that I'm a pilgrim passing through this world in the service of God on my way to glory in the service of God...I've lost my identity, I've forgotten who I am.

***Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands,
and that he had come from God and was going to God...***

So we, knowing that we are

redeemed Sons of God,
chosen vessels,
a royal priesthood
and on our way to glory...

.... we can lay aside our garments, gird ourselves with a towel and wash feet until Jesus comes.



May the Spirit of God help us to be clear about who we are and remain clear through whatever storms may come until the day dawns and the night is gone forever.

Prayer- Lord, deliver us from looking to men for our sense of identity. Rescue us from the emptiness and despair we bring on ourselves because we are trying to measure up. Free us from the lying spirits that set our hearts on our own self-image. Dear Father, help us to keep our eyes and hearts on you, never forgetting who we are, your beloved children. May we live like your redeemed children, knowing our inheritance, knowing what you offer us now. May we find confidence and joy knowing that you chose us, you chose us Abba, Father. May we enter into the royal priesthood you call us to, lifting many before your Throne, ministering your life to this world, knowing this is our call. May we continually remember that you, the Living God, are our destination. No matter where this journey takes us, we are yours, Alleluia.

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

