

Equipped to know who you are

Some years ago, psychologists asked people to write down 20 statements in response to the question “*Who am I?*” If you were asked to consider who you are as a follower of Jesus, how would you respond? Do you appreciate the difference that being a child of God makes to your identity? Here are just three of my answers to the question “*Who am I?*”

- “**I am a child of God**”¹ reminds us of the great price that was paid in order to bring us into God’s family. That price was the blood of Jesus Christ and shows that he thought we were worth dying for. This demonstrates we are **valuable** and precious to him. Have you ever doubted your value to God? Is your view of yourself distorted because you don’t know what God thinks of you? If so, then take encouragement from what he says about this in his word, the Bible.
- “**I am God’s workmanship**”² indicates we are **significant** to him. This gives purpose to our lives. It’s probably a fair comment to say that a lot of people are searching for a purpose in life. Although they might not consciously acknowledge it, I suspect that, deep down, they want to know where they fit in the grand scheme of things. In short, they are looking for significance and, sadly, many don’t find it because they’re looking in all the wrong places. As followers of Jesus, I believe our ultimate life’s purpose will only be realized when we look for it in him.
- “**I am a citizen of heaven**”³ confirms that we belong to God for all time and eternity. This gives us **security**. In our day-to-day lives, security can take different forms: we might feel financially secure if we have a reasonably well-paid job; perhaps we’re emotionally secure when all is well in our relationships; or maybe having good health is important to our feelings of security. The problem with basing our security on these things is that it could be threatened by a change in circumstances. However, when we belong to God through faith in Jesus, we have a security that is firmly grounded in him.

When we realize that our identity lies, not primarily in what we’ve done, but in what Jesus Christ has done for us, we’ll begin to appreciate how valuable, significant, and secure we really are. Many Christians are living in defeat and not enjoying all God has for them because they don’t know who they are. Perhaps negative events in their past have eroded any sense of self-worth they might have had. They blame themselves for any rejection they’ve experienced and believe that, if they could only perform better or please a particular person more, they could earn acceptance. Others think their value or self-worth can be measured in terms of successes they’ve already achieved. Isn’t it good to know that our value is not determined by what we do or don’t do, but is based on what God has done for us: he has rescued, redeemed and forgiven us⁴ and we are complete in him⁵.

Countless people are also unclear about their purpose in life and often measure their significance in terms of temporal goals like marital status, work promotions, bank balance, etc. However, these things don’t define who we are, nor do they give us the purpose for which we were created. One of our purposes in life is to bear witness to Jesus Christ⁶ while another purpose is to live as God’s co-worker⁷. How’s that for purpose!

Likewise, our security doesn’t depend on what other people do or say about us. If we are genuine believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, then our security is non-negotiable - the bible teaches we are completely free from condemnation⁸ and nothing can ever separate us from the love of God⁹.

Are you equipped to know who you are?

¹ John 1:12

² Ephesians 2:10

³ Philippians 3:20

⁴ Colossians 1:13, 14

⁵ Colossians 2:10

⁶ Acts 1:8

⁷ 1 Corinthians 3:9

⁸ Romans 8:1

⁹ Romans 8:38, 39