

# Who Do You Think You Are?

Who do you think you are?

Who do you think you are as an individual? Is this affected by who you are as a member of society?

How do your friends see you? Does this match up with how you see yourself? When they talk about you, which of your faults might they discuss?

More important than any question so far is this one: What does **God** think of you?

Of course this raises the question of whether there *is* a God. It also brings up the question of whether He has spoken.

The Bible authors wrote from the standpoint that their creator, God, was ultimately in control of what they wrote:

Jer 30:2 So speaks Jehovah, the God of Israel, saying, Write all the Words that I have spoken to you in a book.

If this record is true, God is a speaking God and a writing God. He obviously could have given us a readymade book or communicated some other way, but He chose to have certain men write what He spoke.

Through the centuries, those who have believed in this speaking/ writing God have guarded His words against all counterfeits. Jesus told the Christians in Ephesus:

Rev 2:2 "I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you tested those who say that they are apostles and they are not, and you found them to be liars."

This same responsibility to test all messages rests on God's people today.

We have already implied that men will lie about what God says. Do men lie generally?

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is incurable; who can know it?

The Bible is a book written with the assumption that men are bad.

Only God can make them good again:

Ezek 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

But back to the statement that men are bad. Do you believe that about yourself?

The Bible says that our evil nature has a slanted view of itself:

Prov 21:2 Every way of a man is upright in his own eyes, but Jehovah weighs the hearts.

I think every one of my ways is right? Well, I must, or I'd be busy changing, eh!

Do I agree with God's assessment, with His evaluation of my heart? By nature, no man does:

Matt 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Once again, if I truly believed this about myself, I'd be on a radical road to rehabilitation.

It IS true. Men DO believe themselves to be righteous. Oh, everyone admits he makes mistakes. It would be madness not to. But on balance, I'm OK. Compared with others, I'm pretty OK.

But Ezekiel 36:26 above said I had a heart of stone. How does a heart of stone- a cold, dead, unfeeling heart- come out pretty OK?

In what way *is* my heart dead? **Spiritually**. It is cut off from **God**. He is life. I'm separated from Him; hence, I'm dead. My

heart is dead.

So a dead heart claims its own righteousness? Yes. Our hearts are dead to God, but very much alive to themselves.

This is what becoming a Christian means- coming to Christ as the only one who can resurrect me- who can give me life. I'm bad. He alone can heal me, remake me.

So how do you know the Christians walking around on earth? They're the ones living their lives as one big Thank You to Jesus. They believe something very radical happened at the cross, something as radical as Hell. Jesus took their Hell in Himself. His righteousness then stands in place of their lack of it.

But there is also a purchase price involved. There is a transaction. I came from being one man's slave (Satan's) to being another's (God's):

1Cor 6:19 ... And you are not your own,  
1Co 6:20 for you are bought with a price.

So how does someone behave as a purchased possession? Well, he obeys Jesus. As Jesus Himself said:

John 14:21 He that has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.

Let's not pretend. There's no way to 'kinda, sorta, generally' keep Jesus' commands. We either intend to keep them or we don't. We either live by them or we don't. The issue is not whether we keep them perfectly but whether it is even our real **goal** to do so. NOT- I try to be good, NOT- I try to treat people fairly:

rather, I am Jesus' servant and life is about doing things His way, *not* mine.

Still confused? God could use any segment of your life to show you the truth. How do you spend your money? Do you even know how God says we should spend our money? ...how we should do *anything*?

Money is an easy way to track who we really are because we're covetous- so says God. That's one of our sins that needs cleansing and healing. Therefore, your money trail shows your non-God priorities. It's not something you can hide. And it's not something you can fix with a quick contribution here or there.

But why won't you simply admit that you're a covetous idolater, separated from God and living life your own way? We already read the answer to that: "Every way of a man is upright in his own eyes." You will defend your own ways 'til your dying breath. That's the nature of lost man, of self-righteous man.

Who do you think you are? God is so intrusive, He's gone and answered the question for you in the verses we've considered. Frankly, it doesn't matter what you or I think of ourselves. There are a thousand different ways people look at themselves. Many of my own views about myself conflict with *other* things I see in me. And these views change under pressure or for mere convenience. How could I have thought this mass of contradictions could have ever been right?

But being pressed into a corner and having to admit the truth about ourselves doesn't change us. We are as we are because we *want* to be that way. We will *stay* that way- unless something radical happens to alter our path.

Believe what God has said about you. Call out to Him for the fix only He can provide. But be apprised: It's a total fix, therefore it involves a total commitment on your part.