



THREE KINGS

GOD'S OWN HEART.

We all have a lot of voices telling us who and how to be. That could be through movies and magazines, podcasts and blogs, or even friends and family members. With the rise of social media, lifestyle blogs, and the like, the term "personal branding" has become more and more popular. Whether you use that term or not, you're probably doing it: painting yourself in the best possible light and hoping people see you the way you want to be seen. What is your brand? Cute and bubbly? Hard and rugged? Activist, down-to-earth, creative?

God has already branded us as His own loved, forgiven, redeemed children. If we want to be kings after God's own heart like David, we need to listen and act according to what God says instead of what others say. It may not be easy, but when struggles come, we know how to respond and who to trust.

IN THE BIBLE.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Romans 8:16-17, 31-39

16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 16:33

33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

QUESTIONS.

1. What are some of the voices in your life telling you who/how to be?
What are they saying?
2. What does God say about you?
3. What can we do to more easily "listen and act according to what God says instead of what others say"?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?