

3/5/2023

THIS IS THE WAY: “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE”

I. What if you overheard these people describe you to someone else...

- ❖ Your Parents
- ❖ Your Kids
- ❖ Your Spouse
- ❖ Your Coworkers
- ❖ Your Boss
- ❖ Your Employees
- ❖ Your Friends
- ❖ Your Neighbors
- ❖ Your Enemy

The way we view ourselves is greatly influenced by how we think significant people in our lives feel about us...especially from our childhood. The greater the significance of the person to us, the greater their opinion matters to us and shapes our own thoughts about ourselves.

✦ Now imagine you overheard **GOD** describe you to someone else...

[Jesus] "... 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV)

II. How God describes you (1 Peter 2:5-11)

- ❖ Living Stones
- ❖ Holy Priests
- ❖ A Chosen People
- ❖ Royal Priests
- ❖ A Holy Nation
- ❖ God's Own Possession
- ❖ Guide to Others of God's Goodness
- ❖ God's People
- ❖ Recipient of God's Mercy
- ❖ Temporary Resident
- ❖ Foreigner

III. How to make sure you're in God's family

a) **ADMIT** that I'm a sinner and need God's forgiveness.

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
1 John 1:9 (NIV)*

b) **BELIEVE** that Jesus died and rose again.

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (NIV)

c) **COMMIT** myself to Jesus.

[Jesus] "...If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24 (NLT)

IV. Since God thinks of us like He does, that has important implications about how we think of ourselves

✦ I am CHOSEN by God.

*“But you are not like that, for you **are a chosen people**. You are **royal priests**, a **holy nation**, **God’s very own possession**. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)*

✦ I am VALUABLE to God.

“For He said, ‘Anyone who harms you harms My most precious possession.’” Zechariah 2:8b (NIV)

*“...for He who touches you touches **the apple of His eye**.” Zechariah 2:8b (NKJV)*

✦ I have IMPORTANT WORK to do for God.

*“...for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. **As a result, you can show others the goodness of God...**” 1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)*

*“**God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.**” 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)*

Keep the Conversation going...

1. How would the significant people in your life describe you to others?
2. How do you think/feel that God would describe you to others?
3. Why is it hard sometimes to think of ourselves the way God thinks of us?
4. We have important work to do for God. (Ephesians 2:10) What does this look like for you?