



1. Where did I come from?

WHO AM I? The Who am I game.

Who am I?

MARK REID

I'm Mark Reid – you know that. But who am I? Mark Reid is just my name.

PASTOR

I'm Pastor of this church. But who am I? That's what I do.

WELSH

I am Welsh. But who am I? My birth to Welsh parents in Wales makes me Welsh.

WHO AM I?

Who am I to God?

Genesis 1:26-30

God has made us in His image.

We are special to Him

Jesus paid the price so that we might come back into relationship with God. We're going to explore just what that means over Summer months.

WHO AM I?

MARK REID

WELCOME TO MY LABORATORY!

So, who am I. Let's explore that a little more in my laboratory!

OPERATION

Suppose we were to do a little operation on me – maybe chop my arm off.

CHOPPED OFF ARM

Well, that wouldn't be very nice would it? I mean, all the blood for the start. But would cutting off my arm, or for that matter one of my legs – would that make me any less me. Of course not. I suppose if we were to cut out one of my vital organs, then I guess I'd be dead! But what if my organs were transplanted – heart, kidney, liver – even an arm – would having someone else's spare parts make me any less me?

It doesn't matter how much chopping we do, we'll never find me in there. We are more than just a body. In the end, a body is a large machine. Or worse, we can see a body being just a load of chemicals which we can buy for a fiver at Homebase.

HEART

We have been created in the image of God – that's what I said earlier. But God isn't flesh and blood – He is spirit. So if we're made in the image of God, it follows that we are spirit too. We have a spiritual nature, an inner person. We sometimes use the heart as a symbol of that. When God breathed life into Adam, he became a living soul – he wasn't just another animal, but he had the breath of God in him.

HOW WE WERE DESIGNED 1

Physically alive – our spiritual nature is connected to our body – that's one significant difference between us and animals – we know we are alive, we are aware we are alive.

HOW WE WERE DESIGNED 2

Spiritually Alive – our spiritual nature is connected to God. We were not just aware of God, but we know God exists. Adam and Eve knew God. They were made to do that – that was God's intention.

ACCEPTANCE – SECURITY -SIGNIFICANCE

We can say that they knew God in three ways:

Acceptance – God accepted them readily into His presence. They talked to Him and He to them.

Security – God provided Adam and Eve with everything they needed. They were secure with Him in Eden.

Significance – God made the human race important. He gave Adam dominion over the whole Earth. It was

his job to subdue it. It was his responsibility.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE FALL

Great, fab, wonderful – and then Adam and Eve messed it all up – they crossed God. They disobeyed one simple instruction “don’t eat from that tree or you’ll die!” But they disobeyed God – they sinned - and died. And they found themselves still alive – but spiritually dead. **SPIRITUAL DEATH** And that’s the history of our race from then to now. We’re all born physically alive, but spiritually dead. In one sense that’s obvious to each person alive. They may have an awareness of the spiritual but what sense to they have of a personal relationship with God? None. There’s no acceptance, no security no significance – only a fear of death a fear of what’s beyond and very often a fear of life too.

NEGATIVE EMOTIONS

And that fear of life can come out in a range of negative emotions – anxiety, guilt, rejection, powerlessness, depression, anger. Those things all come out of us at sometime in our life. Often it is anger at others, often anger at a God people don’t understand because they don’t know Him.

TRYING TO GET BACK

All these are things that exist in a world where the acceptance, security and significance of knowing God are absent. But there is still enough of our spiritual nature within us to know that we need it.

Trying To Go Back

The best the world can offer does not work

False equations

Performance + Accomplishments = Significance
Status + Recognition = Security
Appearance + Admiration = Acceptance

“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”
Ecclesiastes 1:2

So what do we do. We try to get significance, security and acceptance in other ways – here’s a few ways in which human beings get them on the screen. But where does that get us with God? Not very far. IN fact Solomon, one of the wisest and richest men of his generation came to this conclusion in Ecclesiastes – everything is meaningless, utterly meaningless because we build all these things up and in the end we end up dead – and what has all that been worth anyway?

OBEYING THE LAW

Of course, there are people who try to get to God by being good people, obeying the 10 Commandments and all that stuff. What was Paul’s conclusion about keeping Law – it brings death.

WHAT JESUS CAME TO DO

Now before I depress you completely, we’re here to celebrate something this morning. We’re here to celebrate the completed work of Jesus on the cross. This stuff may be sound very depressing, but if you are a believer this morning; if you’ve accepted Jesus as your Saviour and Lord this morning then none of this is you.

As we consider the body of Jesus broken for us, as we consider His blood shed we know that God has lived us and Jesus has brought us life through His death and resurrection:

What Jesus Came To Do

**“In the beginning was the Word...
In him was life, and that life was the
light of men.”** John 1:1-4

**“I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full.”** John 10:10

**“I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me will live, even
though he dies.”** John 11:25

These are our words. If you know Jesus as your Saviour this morning, Jesus has made you spiritually alive. We're not dead, we're alive and as a result we have a restored connection with God – we can and do know Him. That's the amazing truth of this meal.

ACCEPTANCE SECURITY AND SIGNIFICANCE

But there's more – God has restored the acceptance, security and significance that He had with Adam and Eve. As we come around the table this morning we need to affirm afresh who we are in Christ – what God in His live grace and mercy has made us through trusting Jesus. It's in the sheet I gave you. Take it home with you – read it, check the scriptures and be encouraged by the promises of God in it.

Why am I doing this – because so often even though Jesus has given each person who has trusted Him and who follows Him live, we live as though we are dead and over the next month or two and going to explore how this applies in our lives so that we can live who we are. Let me refer to our passage this morning – just one sentence of it: I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus. When you accepted Jesus God started a work – now it's time to see how it gets finished.

WHO AM I IN CHRIST

But for now, let's meditate on the words Jesus has given us, rejoice in them and remember them as we remember how we got to have them – through Jesus' death.

Read WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Preached by Mark Reid

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