

Just Who Do You Think You Are?

Introduction:

Title: Three Kinds of People

A wise man of the Orient once remarked: “There are three kinds of people in all types of organizations – rowboat people, sailboat people, and steamboat people. Rowboat people need to be pushed or shoved along. Sailboat people move when a favorable wind is blowing. Steamboat people move continuously, through calm or storm. They usually are masters of themselves, their surroundings, and their fate.”

See Psa. 32:9; Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 6:1

Scripture:

Ephesians 1:3-6 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

- A. We’re blessed.
- B. We’re chosen.
- C. We’re holy.
- D. We’re without blame.
- E. We’re sons of God.
- F. We’re accepted in Christ Jesus.

Title: Be Yourself!

I read the other day about the American musician George Gershwin. He idolized Irving Berlin. Gershwin was a struggling composer, getting about \$35.00 a week in New York City’s tin-pan-alley, and Berlin noticed him. He offered him a job as his musical secretary at three times \$35.00 a week. But he said, “George, I advise you not to take this job, because if you do, you will become a second-rate Irving Berlin. But, if you say to yourself, “I, George Gershwin, am unique, and I’ll be nobody else but George Gershwin, you can become immortal.” And that was exactly what he did.

A while back, the story of Willie Mays was on television. He is one of the greatest athletes baseball has ever produced. But he wasn’t always like that. He idolized Joe DiMaggio. He watched how DiMaggio stood, how he walked, how he swung the bat, how he ran; he tried his best to be another DiMaggio. Finally, some wise coach told him, “Willie, you have great ability. Don’t be like anybody else. Be yourself.” And he became Willie Mays. If you were to name the greatest baseball players in the history of baseball, no list would be complete without the name of this man who became himself.

See Prov. 19:20; Jer. 1:5; John 21:21-22

I. People who don’t know who they are

- A. Try to be conventional, common and popular at the expense of their creativity.
- B. Are easily persuaded to change. (Their friendships, lifestyles, families, beliefs, their pastor.)
- C. Are defensive and closed people.
- D. Will not join groups for fear of rejection.
- E. Have less ability to cope with stress and frustration.
- F. Are more passive than others and show little initiative.
- G. Are vulnerable to criticism.

II. We are new creatures.

Title: New Life

Former heavyweight champion George Forman gave his testimony at the Garden Grove community Church in California. Here is part of what he said concerning his conversion to Christ in the San Juan dressing room after the Jimmy Young fight:

“I felt my head, and when I brought my hands down, I saw there was blood on the palms of both hands.” He said. “Then I looked down and saw there was blood on my feet.

I was reminded there was where Jesus bled – on His palms, on His feet, and on His head. At that moment, I died. I died for God. Then I got life as a new creature. I became like a small trusting baby.” I had never read the Bible before,” he said. “Now I read it all the time. I understand it. I want to explain to other people so that they, like me, can know the truth.”

That is what happens to everyone who trusts the Lord Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

- A. As a new creation, we have all we need to become all God intended for us to become.
- B. If we live in condemnation over our past, we deny the grace of God and frustrate His plan to make us into something of Kingdom value.
- C. The Apostle Paul overcame the temptation to dwell in the past and lived life as the new creation man God had called him to be.

I Corinthians 15:9-10 “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

- D. We need to accept who we are in Christ Jesus and not try to become someone we are not.

III. Just let me tell you who I am.

- A. I’m a member of a chosen group of people.

I Peter 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

- 1. A redeemed people that were not a people until the Lord called us unto Himself.
- 2. We were actually enemies of God at one time.
- B. I’m part of a royal priesthood.
 - 1. That means God allows me to serve as a priest with access to the throne room.
 - 2. What good would a priest be if he could not go before the one he was serving?
- C. I am the handiwork of God.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

- 1. That means I am well-suited for what God wants me to do. (My mission in life.)
- 2. That means I am competent and what is expected is within my reach.
- D. I am part of a team.

I Corinthians 3:8-9 “Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.

- 1. I can accomplish more with others than I can by myself.
- 2. I have people in my life who will come into agreement with me.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. ¹⁰ for if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. ¹¹Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

IV. Because of who I really am, I will resist becoming what you, the devil or the world want me to be.

- A. I can only do this as I surrender to the Lord.
Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”
- B. As I surrender my body and my mind to Christ Jesus, I go through the process of becoming brand new. (Something different than what I once was. A new creature)