



Who Am I?

What Difference Do I Make?

Where Do I Fit?

At some point in our lives, all of us think about who we are, where we came from, and where we will go when this life is over. We wonder about the purpose of life. By the time we start school, we already have compared ourselves to others our own age. How our peers perceived and interacted with us had a great influence on how we perceived ourselves. Everyone experiences the pressure to conform to others' expectations. But as we mature, we think about how we fit into the bigger picture. Outwardly, we may conform to the norm but inwardly question who we really are. The pressure to conform in order to be accepted by others can result in frustration and anger toward others and self. It leads to confusion and discontent. We may wonder, "Why do I think and feel this way? Why won't people accept me just as I feel I am?"

Feelings and fact are not always equal. We will never be comfortable in our own skin until we measure our thoughts and feelings against the One who made us. The Bible, God's word, can help us understand the truth of who we really are.

You are human, made in the image of God and given responsibility over the earth and all that is in it. *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”* Genesis 1:27. You are a person of dignity and worth in the eyes of God.

You are unique. There is no one exactly like you, not even an identical twin. Why? We only need to look at nature to see that God loves variety. Did you know there are over 24,000 species in the sunflower family alone? *“And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.”* Isaiah 64:8

Your life has a purpose. Did you know God created you carefully and specifically, the way an artist creates a painting? God not only knew you before you ever existed, but He had a plan and purpose for your life. No matter the circumstances of your birth, you are not an accident. *“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”* Ephesians 2:10

How can we identify our true identity and purpose? We must meet the One who made us. Meeting our creator might sound scary, and that’s understandable. All of us instinctively know that we haven’t lived up to who God created us to be. Though God created humanity to be a reflection of his goodness and to live a blessed (good) life on earth, humans chose against God, and we keep on choosing against him. This “away-from-God” behavior is called sin, and it naturally separates us from God and the life God intended. Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* | John 1:8 *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”*

THAT’S THE BAD NEWS. BUT THERE’S REALLY GOOD NEWS TOO! *“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans 5:8 Whereas we earned death, God gives us life through Jesus! *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6:23 Through Jesus Christ, humans are restored to right relationship with God and begin the journey toward right relationship with all of God’s creation and with self.

How do I receive God’s gift of life instead of the spiritual lostness that I have earned? *“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”* John 1:12

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him.” Revelation 3:20

“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already.” John 3:16-18

WARNING: to understand and agree with the above information isn’t enough; however, by faith, you must open the door of your heart and invite Jesus to come into your life. This is how to do that:

(Sample prayer you can pray)

“Jesus, I am sorry for all the things I have done wrong (my sins). I am opening myself to you. Please come into my life. Forgive me and lead me from now on. Thank you for taking my sin-earned death so I can have eternal life with you in heaven. Please sit on the throne of my heart each day and lead me moment by moment.”

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

If you prayed this prayer, you have taken the first step toward abundant, satisfying living. Look for fellowship in a local church so you can grow in your faith. Read God’s word, the Bible, daily so God can speak to you; and, speak to Him daily in prayer.

The answer to the question that truly matters:

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

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