

Just a Thought



Me, Myself, and I - Who is that exactly?

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How do we know who we are? The person who is a mother, wife, daughter, or friend is part of who we are. At one time in my life, I felt that if those were taken away, there would be nothing left.

At a conference recently, we learned about our identity in Jesus. How are we viewed in Heaven? We know that we are children of God if we have accepted Jesus' gift of salvation. This is our most important and only everlasting self. This self is the new creation that our Lord brings into being when we are His. This self is declared holy by God because Jesus is holy and we have all that He is.

This is really an idea that is hard to grasp. We can know that our old self has died with Christ on the cross, but we also know that we have attitudes and actions still hanging around from that old self. How in the world can God see us as holy? One thing is that if we are IN Jesus, then God the Father sees Him when He looks at us. That is pretty amazing.

So what about the remains of the old self? What about the times we are selfish, unforgiving, unloving, and all the rest? That also has been nailed to the cross. Paul talks about this in Romans chapters 7 and 8. Does this mean we are free to do as we please? The new creation wants to please the Lord. Philippians 2: 13 tells us that God is working in us both to will and to act for His good purpose.

The thing is, God knows how His work in us will end up. He knows all that we will do and be. He knows the end of the story. We have to be willing for all that He wants to do in us, but once we are His children, He will even help us to be willing. Accepting Jesus' gift of salvation is the beginning of our new self. It is the beginning of our eternal self. It is really the beginning of knowing who we are.