

# *Who Am I?*

*By Lori Schaffer*

Have you ever asked yourself the question, “Who am I?” I have asked myself this question many times over the last 30 years. Sadly, I have been answering it wrong the entire time. My answers to that question would have included things like, I’m a wife, a stay-at-home mom, a hard worker, and successful in my career. What I have come to learn is that the things you do, do not define YOU. Read that statement again and let it sink in. Your identity is not found in the role you play. Here’s why. In 10, 20, or 30 years from now, you may no longer be working in the same profession, you may find yourself retired, your children will be grown and off living their own lives, or you may find yourself living alone. Our circumstances will most likely be very different. Our identity is not found in the things we do, but rather in the God we serve.

In order to know who YOU are, you first need to discover who HE is. Who is God? God is eternal. We have a hard time wrapping our minds around the idea of eternity. Eternity is what sets God apart and above everything else. There is no beginning or end with God. God is unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God fills us. The gap between sin and death has been bridged. Jesus came to die for our sins. God is loving. He IS love. His love for us is unconditional. God is faithful and He is good. God is patient, merciful, and gracious. God extends his grace freely to us. Grace is one of those words that I bet when asked, most Christians wouldn’t be able to clearly define. Grace is God’s undeserved favor. We don’t deserve it, but God lavishes his grace on us. God is Holy. Revelation 4:8 says, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” God is omnipotent, meaning all powerful, God is omniscient, all knowing, and God is omnipresent, all present. God is sovereign. He is in control of everything and can do as He pleases, He is God. God is just and God is fair. Here’s a good one, God’s plans never change. Think how often you change your mind about something or change plans you have made. God doesn’t do that; he sticks to His original plan. This list could continue on and on. The only way you are truly going to experience for yourself who God is, is by reading His word. Hebrews 4:12 states, “For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” As you dig into God’s word, He will begin to speak to you. You will never fully know who you are unless you know who God is. As you learn more and more about God and who he is, you will discover who He created YOU to be.

Who you are and what you were created for go hand in hand. The truth of God’s word reveals your identity and purpose. Psalm 139:13-14 says, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” In addition Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” God knew you before he even created you and He has big plans for you. His plans for your life are

good. Here's the burning question though, are you allowing God to work His plan in your life, or have you taken the reins, trying to work your own plan? Or perhaps you have allowed the enemy's lies to take over. For a long time, I bought into the lie that God didn't REALLY care about me. There is a whole world out there, how can he really care about me? I believed that my prayers and requests were insignificant to God, so why bother even asking. Lies, lies, don't fall for the devil's lies! We need to include God in every detail of our lives. He cares about us. No matter how big or small the need, take it to God. Philippians 4:6 says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Most recently, I almost allowed the enemy's lies to get me again. I have been praying every day for God to handle a situation, to move a mountain in my life. The lie that God is tired of hearing me beg, I sound like a broken record, I should just stop asking; entered my thoughts. Then I read the above scripture. God wants to hear my prayers. The word supplication means to beg earnestly. God will never grow tired of our prayers. By praying and begging, we are being obedient to God. Life is so much better when we do things God's way.

Once you know who God is, you can discover who he created you to be. God has a purpose for your life. If you have never read the book, "A Purpose Driven Life", by Rick Warren, I encourage you to do so. I am just about finished with it. When I was cleaning out my mom's house after she passed, I found this book, which I had given her many, many, years ago. There was a note inside the cover, dated May 9, 2004, that I wrote to her. It read, "Dear Mom, I am so happy that you accepted Jesus into your heart. I pray that the words of this book find their way into your heart, and not the junk drawer." Well, I'm pretty sure the book did end up in the junk drawer, because I could tell it was never opened. So, I took my words to heart and began reading it for myself and discovering my God given purpose.

The bible has a lot to say about who you are. I encourage you to open up the book of Ephesians and read the first 3 chapters. These chapters will show you how much God loves you and who you are in Him. The bible is filled with so many scriptures about who you are in Christ. I am going to list several scriptures that reveal the truth about who you are and how God wants you to live your life.

- I am alive in Christ ~ Ephesians 2:15
- I am complete in Him who is the head over all rule and authority - of every angelic and earthly power ~ Colossians 2:10
- I am holy and without blame before Him in love ~ Ephesians 1:4
- I have the mind of Christ ~1 Corinthians 2:16
- I have the peace of God that surpasses all understanding ~ Philippians 4:7
- I am called to live a holy life by the grace of God and to declare His praise in the world ~Psalm 66:8
- I am saved by God's grace, raised up with Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places ~Ephesians 2:5-6
- I am greatly loved by God ~ John 3:16
- I am an ambassador for Christ ~ 2 Corinthians 5:20

- I am chosen by God, forgiven and justified through Christ ~ Colossians 3:12 & Romans 8:33
- I am God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works that He prepared for me to do ~ Ephesians 2:10
- I have everything I need to live a godly life and am equipped to live in His divine nature ~ 2 Peter 1:3-4
- I am chosen by God who called me out of the darkness of sin and into the light and life of Christ so I can proclaim the excellence and greatness of who He is ~ 1 Peter 2:9
- I am the righteousness of God - I have right standing with Him - in Jesus Christ ~ 2 Corinthians 5:21
- I am redeemed - forgiven of all my sins and made clean - through the blood of Christ ~ Ephesians 1:7
- I press on each day to fulfill God's plan for my life because I live to please Him ~ Philippians 3:14
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me ~ Philippians 4:13

This list is only a snapshot of who you are in Christ. There are so many more verses, too many to list. It's truly amazing when you begin to understand who God is and what He created you for. Your entire outlook on life, your purpose, your view of each day will change. Fear will lose its hold on you because you will be living in a new found freedom in Christ. Worries and life's problems will no longer consume you, because you will learn to give those worries over to God. You will begin to live your days "on purpose", seeking ways in which you can bless others. I just read this phrase in the book, *A Purpose Driven Life*, "Even if you only bring 1 person to Christ in your lifetime, you have fulfilled your calling and purpose in this life."

I encourage you to dig deep into God's word. Discover for yourself who God is and who he has called you to be. Read the above "I am" statements daily. Begin seeing yourself the way God sees you. You are loved, chosen, forgiven, redeemed, and adopted. God does not see your flaws; he only sees who he created you to be. Your identity is not found in the job title you hold or the role you play. Those things will constantly change throughout your life. Your identity needs to be rooted in Christ, and that identity will never change. Hallelujah!