

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Who are you?"

By Jeff Nielsen, Minister, Norton Christian Church

Who are you?

Please, don't tell me what you do or where you live. Please, don't tell me where you are from. Please, I'm not looking for your cell number or your Facebook feed. Strip away the surface junk and let's get down to the truth.

Who are you?

That's the real issue behind Jesus' question to the man afflicted with evil spirits in Mark 5:9: "What is your name?" The power of evil had so captured the man that he could not answer and give his own name. He had lost his identity to the powers of destruction at work in his life. "My name is legion ... for we are many" was the answer given to Jesus' question.

Who are you?

It's a crucial question. How we define ourselves matters intensely in how we live our lives and live out our faith. Don't believe it? Take Legion's word on it. He had lost his identity and lived out his life in the most self-destructive of circumstances ~ living in burial caves, shrieking, cutting and beating himself, uncontrollably wild, isolated, feared, and alone.

Who are you?

But if Legion isn't enough, look at the way the Lord's own temptations are couched in Luke 4, "If you are the Son of God ..." The devil dangles the question of Jesus' identity before Him trying to get him to prove who He is ~ to himself, and to others. The devil is not only in the details, but

the devil is also in our need to prove ourselves.

Who are you?

It's the question of questions. That's why it is important to see who we are by the grace of God in Ephesians 2:1-10. Our identity: we are bought by God's love, made

alive by God's graciousness, blessed by heaven's glorious riches, and re-created in Christ to be God's incredible masterpiece of divine craftsmanship.

Who are you?

Paul says it to us powerfully:

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation ... (Colossians 1:22-22 emphasis added).

So who are you?

It's the only question that matters. It's the motivation for our behavior and the power to our passions. We don't do what we do to get grace, to be approved by God, or to win heaven. Jesus died to make us back into the real us: the us God put together in our mother's womb ~ God's masterpiece. The devil will do all he can to make us question it, doubt it, and work to prove it. Yet Jesus' sacrifice, the Cross and the Empty Tomb, stand and shout it to us. "You are My Father's Masterpiece! You are the beloved of the holy and awesome God Almighty."

Patience

Shopping for groceries after work is never relaxing, the store is crowded and you have other places to be! When you finally make it to the checkout line with a full cart and a customer appears behind you with two items and cash in hand, what will you do? The minutes you lose by letting that customer ahead of you might be far outweighed by the grateful smile you will receive. A small demonstration of patience could be the most meaningful moment in your busy day...and will make little difference in your evening schedule. Where can you find this patience? In God's House, you can learn of His patience, mercy, and love for us...His children. This special time of prayer, praise, and fellowship can add meaning to your week.

Sunday Psalm 119.1-24	Monday Psalm 119.25-48	Tuesday Psalm 119.49-72	Wednesday Psalm 119.73-96	Thursday Psalm 119.97-120	Friday Psalm 119.121-144	Saturday Psalm 119.145-176
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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PUBLIC NOTICE

•PUBLIC NOTICE•
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KOREY D. HOWELL, DECEASED

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, September 4, 11, 18, 2009.

In the Matter of the Estate of KOREY D. HOWELL, Deceased
Case No. 2008 PR 53
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in said Court by Kenneth Howell and Wilma Howell, Co-Administrators of the estate of Korey D. Howell, deceased, praying that their acts be approved; that their account be settled and allowed; that the estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto pursuant to the laws of intestate succession; that fees and expenses be allowed; that the costs

be determined and ordered paid; that the administration of the estate be closed; that the Co-Administrators be discharged, and that they be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 28th day of September, 2009, at 11:00 o'clock a.m. of said day in said Court in the City of Norton, in Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Kenneth Howell and Wilma Howell
Petitioners
CONNELL & CONNELL
318 West Central, P.O. Box 6
El Dorado, Kansas 67042
Attorneys for Petitioner