

VCL SERMON – 6/5/2016
“The Who I Am Made To Be”
Psalm 139:13-16; I Peter 2:2-10

I. Introduction

In a time 10s of 1000s...maybe even 1000000s of years ago...before the foundation of the world....God, through *His Magnificent Divine Foreknowledge & Providence* designed this planet which we sit upon, which He called Earth, to be created at a precise time and placed at its precise location in this precise galaxy and placed in a precise orbit around the Sun. And He in His Divine Foreknowledge designed that at just a precise moment He would create humanity in His Image in the forms of male and female and place them on this earth. And He in His Divine Foreknowledge designed in His mind that each of us, at a precise moment would be created individually with his and her unique fingerprints, eyes, minds, gifts, abilities, passions and DNA. He in His Magnificent Divine Foreknowledge designed that at just a precise moment each of us would be called by Him to become His children and be eternally His. *He clearly purposed for each of us to be unique individuals who would be made into what we know today as the Body of Christ...*

The key message that I want each of us to leave here today knowing is...

Each of us, together as Christians, is designed by God to be a unique and integral instrument for His purpose of revealing Who He is to the world!

First....we will look at Psalm 139 and the Divine Influence in each of our lives....

II. The Divine Influence – Psalm 139

David...in this wonderful Psalm lets us know that each of us is designed by God, created by God, known completely by God and eternally

watched over by Him... and no matter where we ever go, He is with us and around us and is being led by us every moment of our lives. God's thoughts of us are so vast they are immeasurable.... David says...and I think each of us will agree...that this "knowledge is too wonderful for me"....and is "too high" to be attained.... With this picture that David paints, it is clear that each of our lives is precious and important to our Creator...

As we look at the text of verses 13-16, it is important to note several key points made by David...

- a. First, The "Emphatic You"
 - The Emphatic "You" – You, God, created my inmost being... "You" formed my inward parts... "You" "knitted me together" or "wove me" in my mother's womb...
 - Each of us is uniquely designed and created and put together by God...
- b. Next, Each of us is "fearfully and wonderfully made" ... - vs 14
 - More than any other part of God's creation...mankind is "fearfully and wonderfully made"this unique statement is exclusive to us as humans.
 - All of His works are wonderful...When we stop for just a minute and look around us at His magnificent creation and all of the intricacies of it....there is not a person who would ever deny the matchless wonder of His works...
 - And...when we stop for just a minute and look at each human being....the utter amazement of the workings of the human body...the intricacies of each working part....the uniqueness of each person....the wonder takes our breath away....
 - We know this wonder at the depths of our soul....knowledge too wonderful....thoughts too high to attain!
- c. Next, God's watchful eyes have always been upon us...

- Made in the secret place...woven together in the depths of the earth – vs. 15...Lit. – “In secret I was intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.”
 - God’s has known the purposes for each of our days even when we were an “unformed substance.”
 - Even all the days of my life are written in His book...
 - Such knowledge is too wonderful for me...too lofty for me to attain.
- d. Then...the moments of birth....at God’s precise moment this child whom He has designed and known as an unformed substance and who He has knitted together in his or her mother’s womb is born into this world.... Every person in this room who has ever talked to a set of parents who have experienced the birth of a child....knows the remarkableness of this moment....a child is born....
- This Child is *A Unique Unrepeatable Miracle of God*....every mother or father who is asked will tell you their new baby....every new baby is a miracle....God’s Unique Unrepeatable Miracle...
 - This Child is *A Human Being of Inestimable Value*....every mother or father who is asked will tell you they can’t even imagine a number to value this new and precious life....when asked how much value, most just weep tears of joy...
 - This Child is *Loved Beyond Measure*....every mother or father who is asked about the love they have for this new and precious child will tell you in those moments following the birth that it is matchless and beyond words or comprehension....
 - This Child is *Born Fragile and Vulnerable*....every new born precious and valuable child is very fragile and very vulnerable....he or she has just left the safety and security of the mother’s womb and has entered into this world....he or she needs love, care, nurture, food, shelter, protection, teaching....so much...

So....after hearing all that has gone into the design and creation of a human being....how do parents think of him or her in these early moments of life... Valuable, Precious, Cherished, Loved, Amazing....A Miracle!

And this newborn has just entered into a world filled with the influence of Evil and the presence of Darkness!

III. The Evil Influence – Darkness & The Ruler of This World

a. The fallen world

This Valuable, Precious, Cherished, Loved, Fragile and Vulnerable Amazing Miracle of God has just been born into a world that is corrupted to the microbiological level...into a world that is ruled by the evil one, Satan, the Father of lies, the Deceiver, God's adversary ...born into a world filled with fallen and broken human beings who are slaves to sin...

b. Inherited Sinful Nature

This Valuable, Precious, Cherished, Loved, Fragile and Vulnerable Amazing Miracle of God has inherited a Sinful Nature....Scripture calls this the "flesh"....it is a disposition of independence from God passed on through conception to every human being...

c. Fallen Parents

This Valuable, Precious, Cherished, Loved, Amazing Miracle of God has been entrusted by God to a set of fallen parents who have the effects and brokenness of generations of sin in their lives...

d. Performance & Outcome Driven World

This Valuable, Precious, Cherished, Loved, Amazing Miracle of God has been born into a performance driven and outcome oriented world...into Satan's Power & Control System...in which he or she will often be given messages that emphasize their inability to be good enough...a world of perpetually unequal relationships...a world filled with the lies of the evil one about who and what we are and aren't, about what we can achieve if we just try, and what we can't do because we aren't good enough, smart enough, strong enough, driven enough, pretty enough, handsome enough...

e. Shame, Blame & Guilt

This Valuable, Precious, Cherished, Loved, Fragile and Vulnerable Amazing Miracle of God has inherited a sense of shame, an awareness that he or she is not good enough (meaning less than the humanity of Jesus)....The world's system of performance and

outcome will further serve to deepen the “not good enough” message to a level of believing he or she is deeply flawed....this is what is called “toxic shame”Believing that I’m not good enough, flawed, less than other humans....will drive a human into a cycle of Shame, Blame and Guilt...a never-ending vortex of doubting and increased anxiety....a vortex of vulnerability to the temptations of the evil one...

f. The False Self – The Old Self

All of the lies of not being enough, the unmet expectations of parents, the repeated failures in life, the self-proclaimed successes, the hunger for love, the hunger for importance, the hunger for significance, the fear of criticism, the avoidance of abuse, the need to be loved and liked and accepted....all drive this Valuable, Precious, Cherished, Loved, Fragile and Vulnerable Amazing Miracle of God to believe lies about who he or she is made to be....the lies of Satan....the development of what the Bible calls the “old self.”

g. The Lies of Satan – The Core Beliefs of the Old Self

I Am Not OK As I Am....My Parents Don’t Really Love Me....I’m not smart....I’m only average...I’m not lovable...I’m not pretty enough....my appearance is all that matters....it’s ok to lie to others...if I can just get it right, they will love me....my value is in my appearance...my value is in my performance....I’m stupid....I only achieve because I work hard....I’m better than others....I’m smarter than others....I am the prettiest....I am better....I am less than....I am no good for anyone....I am worthless....I can create my own worth and value....I can get love only by being who/what they need me to be....and on and on and on...

So....This Valuable, Precious, Cherished, Loved, Fragile and Vulnerable Amazing Miracle of God grows up believing lies about who he or she is, not having any concept of his or her true value and worth, and not knowing who he or she was really made to be....

THEN....at God's precise moment....You were chosen by Him....Adopted by God as His child....

Now....we will look at the influence of Adoption into God's Family...and turn our focus to the passage in 1 Peter 2:2-10...

IV. The Adoption Influence – From Darkness to Light – I Peter 2:2-10

a. Spiritual Birth – “Like Newborn Babies....As You Come to Him”

- Eph. 1:3-8 tells us we are Chosen by God -
Each of us has been chosen by God to be His!
- John 3:3 tells us we are Born from Above –
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have experienced a new birth....we have been lit. “born from above”
- We are Spiritual Infants Adopted by God
We are newborn babes in Christ....
- I Peter 1:18-19 tells us we are Redeemed By The Blood of Christ -
We have been purchase not with silver or gold, but with the precious Blood of Christ
- 2 Cor. 5:17 tells us we are A New Creation -
The Old has gone...the New has come....We have become part of the New Creation of which Jesus was the First Born...
Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:22-24 that we are to put off the old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of our minds and to put on the new self which is to be like God in true righteousness and holiness...
We are repeatedly told to die to our old self throughout the New Testament....we are to become new....

- We Are Fully Children of God
We are fully His....Pam and I will never forget the moment when Lauren was placed in our arms as our daughter....I knew in that very moment that she was mine...fully my daughter....I loved her more than I could have ever thought....she was precious and

beautiful....Ours to love and nurture and care for and protect and provide for.... We are like this too God....at the moment we become His, we are fully His....He is our Abba Father....our Daddy Daddy! We belong now to Him...

b. From Earthly Family to God's Family

- We were Born of Water into our Earthly Family...

Each of us were born into an earthy family....it was in this family in whatever region of the world, in whatever culture we grew in that our earthly identity was formed....and for all of us, that earthly identity was lacking in sometimes many ways...but it is all we knew and it is by this identity that we have grown up and learned to live....

- We are Now Born of Spirit into God's Family...

As we are born from above into God's family, for the first time in our lives, we have the opportunity to discover and know who God really made each of us to be individually and corporately...

We are now members of a new family that has new and true messages for us about who we are and it is so important that we learn how to think and believe and live as members of God's family...

- We Are Now Citizens of Heaven...

We have become fully orbbed Citizens of Heaven....we are no longer of this world....we are only living in it.... It is very important in owning our new identity that we learn how to think of ourselves as Citizens of Heaven...our new culture...

- We Are Now Aliens In A Strange World...

We have become aliens in this world that we have known as our home....as we grow in Christ and have the mind of Christ develop in us and the Fruit of the Spirit grow in us...we begin to feel more and more like aliens and strangers in this world....that's because

we are no longer of this world....we are only here as God's people to display His Glory....

So....what is the significance of being Spiritually born into the New Creation...into the Family of God...

V. The Significance

a. Living Stones – Spiritual House – I Peter 2:4-5

- Christ is the Living Stone...He is Choice and Precious to God!
We as His people keep coming to Him because He is Precious to God and Precious to Us....He is our Living Stone....Our Cornerstone....the Rock of our Salvation.... As we keep coming to Him, he is transforming each of us into living stones...
- We Are Being Built Like Living Stones Into A Spiritual House
As living stones, he is building us into a Spiritual House for a Holy Priesthood for the purpose of offering up Spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God...
- This is the picture of the Church! God's family...brothers and sisters in Christ....a Spiritual House built on solid Rock....for God's Royalty....that's us....we are His Royal Court....His Princes and His Princesses...
- As you can see here, our identity is clearly tied to being a part of God's Family....His Royal Family....

b. The Royal & Holy Body of Christ – vs. 9-10

- We are Now a part of A Chosen Race...
We have been born again into a new race...."born not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God"....the New and Incorruptible Creation
- We are Co-Heirs with Christ – Brothers/Sisters of Jesus...
Jesus is the Firstborn of this New Creation....a creation over which Satan has no power....we are co-heirs with Him...
- We are Members of a Royal Priesthood...
We are now Priests in the Kingdom of God
- We are now Citizens of a Holy Nation....

- We are now people of a new culture of a “Set Apart” Nation
- We are now God’s Own People...
We are now His people...we are to identify as His...we are God’s own possession....owned by the King of the Universe!
 - We have been Called Out of Darkness Into His Marvelous Light
 - We are now and forever Bathed In Mercy...
- c. God’s Workmanship – Ephesians 2:10
- We are His “poema” – We are pieces of Poetry from The Creator
 - Made By Him – Unique & Unrepeatable
We are each unique and unrepeatable pieces of His magnificent creation...
 - Made to Be a Significant Part of His Body
Each of us makes up a significant part of the Body of Christ....we are all like molecules in Christ’s Body....knit together by God....just as he knitted each of us together in our mother’s womb....the Body of Christ is truly unique and set apart...just as each of us is...
- d. An Aromatic Letter from Christ –
- 2 Cor. 2:15 tells us we are A Fragrance of Christ to God and All Saved & Unsaved...
Our lives, as we live as Children of God and Servants of Christ, become a sweet aroma of Christ to all who are saved and all who are unsaved and seeking a Savior...
 - 2 Cor. 3:2-3 tells us we are A Letter of Christ –
Our lives, as we live as ones who in obedience to the truth purified our souls, and who fervently love one another from the heart, we become a letter of Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the Living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts...
- e. Christ In You, The Hope of Glory! – Col. 1:26-27
- Col. 1:26-27 tells us that God’s Mystery that was Hidden from Past Ages and Generations is now Manifested in the Saints...
We are all a significant part of God’s Mystery that He kept hidden for ages and generations...this Mystery is now Manifested in us...His Saints!

- It is God's Will to Make Known the Riches of His Glory Through Us...

This Mystery is that God's Will was and is to make known the Riches of His Glory through us....Glory is the revealing of the character of God....Christ in each of us is the hope of the revelation of the character to God to the world!

- His Power Mightily Works Within Each of Us...

God's Power....the Power of the One True Invisible Creator God is at work, MIGHTILY, in each of us....Get this...the Power of the Living God at work in us....in you! For what purpose...

- Announcing the Glorious Deeds of the One Who Called and Chose Us

We are to proclaim Him....to proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous Light!

VI. So....How Do You Think and Feel About Yourselves Now?

Do you believe that you are a Unique Unrepeatable Miracle of God?

Do you believe that you have inestimable Value?

Do you believe that you are loved beyond measure with an Everlasting Love?

Do you believe that you are God's own possession and fully his child?

Can you begin to imagine the worth and value of the Blood of Christ?

Will you begin to think of yourself as a member of God's family?

Can you think of yourself as a fully orb'd Citizen of Heaven?

Can you begin to think of yourself as a living stone being built into a Spiritual House by Jesus?

Do you believe that you are Royalty in God's Kingdom?

Can you think of yourself as God's Prince or Princess?

Can you think of yourself as a piece of poetry from God?

Can you believe that your life is a sweet aroma of Christ?

Can you imagine yourself as a letter from Christ?

And....Can you begin to believe that God is revealing His Character in Christ through you?

This is the Truth!!!! Learning to believe these Truths and live them out is the KEY to experiencing the abundant life that Jesus came to give us!!!!

My dear brothers and sisters....Most human beings...all of them born as Precious, Valuable, Cherished, Loved, Amazing Unique Unrepeatable Miracles of God...even after they are called by God into His Kingdom...most of them never live life thinking well of themselves. Only a small percentage of our Christian population have what I would call right views of themselves... This is because of the work of Satan, the Adversary, the father of Lies...the Deceiver. I hope that after you have heard this Truth today about who God has made you to be and chosen for you to be His that you can leave here with more freedom, with more of a sense of significance as a member of the Body of Christ....and be able to live life more abundantly...

And remember....Each of us, together as Christians, is designed by God to be a unique and integral instrument for His purpose of revealing Who He is to the world!

Amen and Amen!!!!