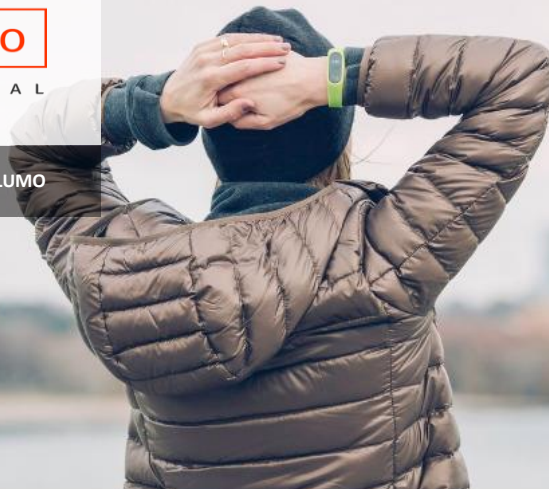


BY PASTOR WALE AFELUMO



## WHO AM I?

### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE

Matthew 16:13-17

### ADDITIONAL STUDY

Psalm 139:14 and Philemon 1:6

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? - **Matthew 16:13**

As you go through life, the question of your identity – who you are will periodically run through your mind, and the way you answer this question will determine the direction or outcome of your life. Philosophers have proffered many open-ended answers to this question; people have subjected themselves to tests to help understand their personalities, others have resorted to medical science to answer them. However, your true identity as a New Testament believer can only be answered correctly in light of who you are in Christ, because the totality of who you are can only be found in Christ.

When Jesus asked His disciples this same question about His identity, they gave several answers, but He chose Peter's because that came as a revelation from God. In the same way, the right answer to the question of "who you are" can only be revealed in light of the Scriptures, not according to the world's standards. The world tries to define you by your nationality, academic qualification, family background, financial strength, marital status, experiences, etc., all of which is a strategy from the pit of hell to put a price tag on you and limit you, but truly you are bigger than all of these; and God wants you to see yourself the way He sees you, not according to what you have or don't have.

To answer the question of who you are, check what these Scriptures say about your identity:

- You have your origin in God – you move and have your being in Him (1 John 4:4).
  - You are made in God's image – you reflect God and bear His nature (Gen. 1:26).
  - You are a new creation in Christ Jesus – what you lost in Adam, you gained in Christ, you are re-engineered to succeed (II Corinthians 5:17).
  - You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus – God sees Jesus Christ and His finished work when He looks at you. You are completely accepted before God (II Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 1:3-6).
  - You are the object of God's undying love – God is in love with you; His mind is full of you, and His love for you is everlasting (Jeremiah 31:3, Psalms 8:4).
- You are all of the above and more, so, do not belittle yourself. Many Christians have been seduced and incapacitated by the thought of low self-worth, because of pressures from the world's definition of who they are and by their present unpleasant conditions. I like to say that, just because a lion is captured and kept in a zoo cage does not change the fact that it is still a lion – if you doubt it, put your hand in the cage. Your journey in life will only find meaning and relevance when you accept who God says you are. Acknowledge every good thing you are in Christ and live in that consciousness.

### CONFESSION

I declare I am who God says I am. I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I am deeply loved by God. I am blessed and highly favored. I stand as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, totally accepted in the beloved. I refuse the world's standard as my definition in life; my worth and definition comes from God. I am born anew in Christ; therefore, I have been engineered to succeed in Jesus' name.

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