

Who Am I.....

- Now several of you I am sure are sitting in your chair saying, “Who Am I”... I know who I am....”I am Rob Gulliver, The Master of All Things In My Garden”, and the truth is we all know that’s my Mom”....but for some of you, you might be saying, “Well I don’t know who I am”, but all joking aside, that’s not what I mean
- In the past when I have been asked the question of “Who Am I”...I have said things like;
 - I am Nathan Gulliver, I am a husband to Alanna Gulliver, I am a father to Malachi, Justus and Elijah, I am an insurance broker, I am an all around handsome, sporty, nice guy
- Now while all of these things are true, especially the last one... that is not what I am getting at when looking at the question of “Who Am I”
- What I am getting at is “Who Am I in Christ” and “Who Has He Made Me To Be Once I Turn My Life Fully Over To Him”
- That question in itself can be a daunting especially for new Christians. You see you knew who you were and what your life was about prior to accepting Christ, but now it might feel like a bit of the open wilderness.

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- So when we turn lives over to Christ would it be fair to say that we have been changed?
- Would it be fair to say that he has made us new?
- Would it be fair to say that in this newness, he has given us new tools to work with that weren't in our tool belt before, and if they were in our tool belt we didn't know how to use them to ultimately glorify the Father?
- Well with this in mind the first characteristic of answering the question of "Who Am I" that I would like to look at is "Courage"
- You see I believe and what the word teaches us, is that "Courage" does in fact come from the Lord and that he has placed inside of all of us.
- The word courage means the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc. without fear
 - But to understand Courage we must understand what FEAR stands for... False Evidence Appearing Real.
 - So to concur fear we must have Faith and while this is true, I believe we also need courage.
- When we are courageous we may suffer. But, being courageous takes bravery.
 - Courage is one of man's needs, since fear is one of his worst enemies.
- In Joshua 1:9 we can read "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord God is with you wherever you go."

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- How amazing it is when someone stands up for his or her convictions. This could be at school, an activity, a family gathering or a group of friends getting together.
- Now granted, being courageous is not easy. But stop and think of the difference it can make. Total atmospheres at gatherings have changed because of someone acting courageously.
- You see, when someone knows what needs to be done in a circumstance and they do it, they are making an impression on someone even if they are unaware of it.
 - I often hear from different people that you are more likely to be respected for what you believe in than just rolling with the crowd
- The Lord will use us as we are. The time may come when we need to perform a role other than the one we have become accustomed to doing, but should this occur, we will be given the Lord's grace to continue to live for him.
- So then, you are now presented with your first opportunity to get involved.... Lets see how you do.
- When I say “Who Am I”.... You say “I AM COURAGE”
- Who Am I !!!!!!!!!!! “I AM COURAGE”

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- Number 2) The second characteristic that the lord gives us is “Humility or being Humble”
- Now I know the men in our church and maybe even in this church have this down pat...
 - I have seen it with our crew when we play Football, Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Paintballing.... I think we all get the point.
- Being humble can be and often is difficult especially because Pride manages to sneak its way in front.
- Many people have the wrong idea about God, the Bible and humility, or being humble. They think being humble means groveling in front of others or thinking we're no good and others are good.
- That's not the Bible's picture. God says when you are humble, you are free from pride and arrogance. You know that in your flesh you are inadequate, yet you also know who you are in Christ.
- You don't need to defend yourself when you understand the Bible's picture of humility, for you know who you are in Christ. You are able to be a peacemaker without needing to fight for your rights. You are able to walk humbly in the power of God's Holy Spirit, not your own personal power.
- Godly humility is being comfortable with who you are in the Lord and therefore putting others first. The meaning of humility in the Bible is one of loving others, not being a wimp!
 - *Philippians 2:3 tells us “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves”.*

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- Seeing Humility in action is an amazing thing and the following statements show the power of being humble
- **You can defuse arguments when you are humble.**
 - You do not need to stand up for yourself in an angry manner. And you do not have to win every argument. Proverbs 15:1 says *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger”*.
- **You can handle unfair treatment peacefully when you are humble.**
 - You can respond to unfair treatment without being overcome by bitterness. Godly humility means you do not feel a need for vengeance or revenge.
 - *Ephesians 4:31-32 says “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”*.
- **You can ask forgiveness when you are humble.**
 - Even if you think you are only one percent wrong, you can easily apologize for what you did wrong.
 - *Matthew 5:23-24 says “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift”*.
- **Bible-based humility does not mean groveling.**
 - When I humble myself, I feel strong in the Lord. I don't need to be defensive.
- **Bible-based humility isn't being unaware of your gifts or calling.**
 - Although we should avoid self-pride, godly humility does not mean we should pretend we are unaware of the gifts God has given us. The key is to remember that they are from God.
 - *Ephesians 3:8 says “Although I am less than the least of all of God's people, this grace was given to me: to preach to the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ”*.

So Then..... Who Am I !!!!! (I AM HUMBLE)

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- Number 3) The third characteristic that the lord gives us is “to be an Anchor or to have a strong foundation”
- In our lives I know that we have all heard the phrase, “The Bigger They Are, The Harder They Fall...or at least I know I have heard it a lot over the years.
- But... I like to think that we can add to that and say “The Stronger they Are In Christ, The Less They Fall”.
 - With our lives placed firmly in Christ and in our relationship with him, we will be seen and understood by others to be Anchored in the truth because our foundation is in him.
- However, the reverse is also true in that if we do not have a strong relationship with the Lord that our decisions and actions can be seen as wayward or without direction and that our foundation is weak.
- It says in 1 Corinthians 10-13 “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work”.
- The structure we are building is being laid on top of the most solid foundation – Jesus Christ.
- We don’t have to worry about the foundation – it is solid. What we do need to concern ourselves with is what and how we build on top of it.
- As the bible informs, God will use fire to “test the quality of each man’s work.” Thus we should build a strong and useful structure using suitable materials.
 - Materials such as;
 - Prayer
 - Time in The Word
 - Fellowship
 - Outreach and Evangelism

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- As christian's we often talk about "Bringing The Lords Kingdom, Here to Earth, Now and a large component of this work is outside of these four walls.
- Now if we are going to be effective in this, I don't know about you but I want to make sure that my house is in order and that I am "Anchored" with the Lord so that we can impact those around us, without being misguided or off course.
- I want my Anchor to be seen as that of a Giant Cruise ship vs. that of a small tin boat.
- If asked the question... "Who Am I?" I am an Anchor.
- And if asked of you "Who Am I !!!!" (I AM AN ANCHOR)

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- Number 4) The fourth characteristic that the lord gives us is “to be Meek”
- Now Meekness does not = Weakness.
- Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same.
 - Weakness is due to negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or lack of courage.
 - But meekness is due to a person's conscious choice. It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness and/or gentleness.
 - Lets look at Horses for example
- Hundreds of years ago Horses roamed free in the wild untamed and unburdened
- But Humans soon began using the horses sheer power for many things
- Before the humans could use the horse however, they had to “break the horse”
- This meant taming the horse and making it obey instructions
- They had to break the horses will without breaking the horses trust
- Achieving this task was never easy and usually takes a long time but eventually when the horse was broken the master could ride and direct the horse
- To help understand lets look at two different types of horses
 - First, the pony horse...we've all seem them, and our kids have ridden them
 - Very cute, but no spirit, no character, not alive. They just shuffle their feet along with their head held low.
- Meekness is not like that. Meekness is Not A Broken Spirit.
 - Rather Meekness as stated before, is having power, but submitting that power to God's will.
- Now I think our meekness is more like that of a War Horse
- You can picture it in your head as the horse rears on its hind feet and then comes thundering to the ground
- A War Horse has Strength!! But all that Horses fire and spirit are brought into control by the rider
- Our rider is the ultimate master, Jesus. He is free to ride our lives. He will take us into battle and he will bring out the greatest strengths within us.
- Lets let our master be Jesus and learn to be a War Horse!!

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- So how do we make the most of Meekness
- Well first lets discuss why we need it
 - To receive God's word
 - James 1:21 says "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save our souls"
 - To be able to teach others
 - 2nd Timothy 2:24-26 says "And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will"
 - To help restore a fallen brother or sister
 - Gal. 6:1 - Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
 - To give a reason of our Hope
 - 1 Pet. 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
 - Meekness is important in living a life as a believer
 - Eph. 4:1-3 - I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- If meekness is not added to our lives, we are not putting on the new man (Col. 3).
 - 1. If we are not putting on the new man, we are not pleasing to God.
 - 2. If we are not pleasing to God, we have no hope of eternal life with Him.
 - 3. It is important that we learn to put on meekness.
 - Who Am I !!!!!!! (I AM MEEKNESS)

Who Am I.....

- Number 5. of answering the question of “Who Am I” that I would like to look at TODAY is “Peace” or to be a “Peacemaker”....
- Now looking around I see several of you looking like, “No way this Peace thing is not for me” I serve a God who had righteous anger so I am aloud to just be Angry at times.
 - My favorite book in the bible is Leviticus man, because that is the God of Righteous Anger and he is my kind of dude...
- Now while that may be true, the same God also calls us to be the “Peacemakers” and “Peacekeepers” when Anger and Rage are lurking at every corner to devour all that is in their path.
- Peace.... We could all use more of it....in our own lives, in our relationships with others and more of it in the world in general.
- But how do we find it and use it within us?..... Let’s look to our Living Word.
- **First we have to have Peace of Mind.**
 - Just as planted seed is bound to grow, so the things of God implanted within our spirits will bring forth God’s harvest of peace and joy and many other good things. “ ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, [faith](#)...” (Galatians 5:22)
- I once read a book about a man who had this statement printed on the back of his business card:
 - “Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry. Live simply; expect little; give much; Fill your heart with love; scatter sunshine. Forget self. Think of others, and do as you would be done by. Try it for one week—you will be surprised.”
- That man knew the peace of God. You to can feel it more deeply yourself if you remember these types words and put them into practice every day.

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- **Secondly, we need to have Peace with Others.**
- God does not give us His peace to hoard in our hearts until it grows stale. As with all His gifts, peace is meant to be shared. And only as we share it, do we truly have it.
 - Roman 12:18: “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” What a wonderful formula for peace!
- If someone says something unkind about you, don’t brood about it. Ask yourself if there is any truth in it. If there is, be thankful for the criticism. Then [pray](#) for your critic and do him or her an act of kindness. And you will feel better, and be better, for it.
- **Third and Finally we need to be seeking Peace on Earth.**
 - Now I’m not talking about just saying it. We see people just say it all the time,
 - Just watch any Music Awards show or Beauty pageant and sure enough someone will either say they want peace or thank God for helping them make it as a Star.
 - While some of this may be true, it is usually just words that are backed with action.
- We Need to be full of Action and committed to what we believe.
- You see while the peace that God promises is primarily an inner blessing, it is meant to be spread around the world.
 - The Bible states in Isaiah 32:17, “that war will end eventually and everyone will live without fear of violence or disaster”.
 - Who Am I !!!!!!!!!!! “I AM PEACE”

Who Am I.....

- Number 6) The sixth characteristic or attribute that the lord gives us is “Influence”
- We all have the Power to make an Influence on our surroundings
 - Friends
 - Family
 - Work
 - Society or our Community
- In the same way however, all of these areas have an influence on us
 - Friends “Peer Pressure” – There could be good peer pressure in your bad peer pressure
 - Family “Good Example or Poor Example” – Some of you may have grown up in good strong family homes while others had a very different upbringing where you were exposed to things that you would not want to repeat in your parenting life
 - Work “Good Work Conditions vs. Poor Work Conditions” – Maybe the place that you work is very hard to wake up to every morning or maybe you spring out of bed and skip to work as you love it soooo much. (Be it rare, it does happen)
 - Society & Community – Some of you may dislike your community and the government that runs it, or maybe some of you have taken an active role in such things and are pleased with things are at.
- The point in it all however, is that all of these areas have an influence on our lives and we in turn should have an influence on them.
- We all have the ability to make an influence, the question is, are we a “Positive Influence” or “Negative Influence”.
- Now I believe that we as christian’s, desire to be that Positive Influence and I also believe that God has given us the Power to do it.
- The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 2:16, "That I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain."
- He is going to rejoice in his opportunities, also in how the influence of a godly life impacted others.

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- But, how do we make it stronger;
- **1st) We can build our Influence**
 - The way you build your influence is simply to live right, to be the kind of Christian God wants you to be. You can't build it overnight, but you can build it. Build the kind of life that God asks of you. Be the kind of Christian who is an example of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **2nd) We can broaden our Influence.**
 - Jesus said that if you have believed in Him, you will do greater works in life than He did! That's a powerful statement! What does it mean?
 - It doesn't mean that we're going to have more influence than Jesus had; it means we will have more opportunities than He had.
 - Opportunities will come, but it's our influence that concerns me. We shouldn't allow ourselves to be content with meager influence! We need to plan for a great influence with our lives. Broaden it day by day and year by year.
 - How do we do that? The way to broaden our influence is to identify with right things.
- **3rd) We can borrow Influence**
 - There have been times when I have had to borrow influence.
 - There have been times when I didn't have the words or I wasn't displaying the example I should have been to influence those around me, in the right direction.
 - But... by God's grace and borrowing the influence of those that have been sowing into my life, I was able to re-connect with God and re-establish my influence.

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- You are not here just to get an education; you are here to build and broaden your influence. In order for God to bless you, you need a tremendous amount of influence.
- If you come with influence, you can do something for God!
- But now let me also tell you this.... Satan wants to taint your Influence
- **4th) We can destroy our Influence**
- I've spent years borrowing and building and broadening my influence, but I can destroy the influence of my life very quickly. How? By not protecting it.
-
- A business can destroy its influence by not doing things right.
- A church can destroy her influence by accepting things that aren't right.
- Christians can destroy their influence by not standing for right.
- Sober up and realize that God holds us accountable for our influence!
- Don't ever compromise, and your life will have influence. Build your influence, and God will bless you. Purpose in your heart that you will do everything you can to build your influence in the right way.
- Who Am I... "I AM INFLUENCE"

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- Number 7) The seventh characteristic or attribute that the lord gives us is “To Be Obedient”
- When the Lord prompts you to do something.... Do It!! Just like Nike, or Mike... Just Do it!!
- Don’t let the emotions or lies of doubt, fear, uncertainty get in the way. But, before we can be obedient in anything we must first learn to be Obedient to our heavenly father.
- You see how can we show obedience to anyone or anything if we don’t show it to him first. In all things he should be first.
 - Its says in Acts 5:29, But Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than man”
 - Christ has to be first
- How do we do this, we act in complete submission to him. With complete submission, complete submission, complete submission... the Lord can only truly use us for his plan, purposes we are fully sold out for him.
- Often in this day in age, we get completely sold out to so many things in our lives, and yet we cant do it for Christ.
- Why, because it takes sacrifice and work. We like things that are easy and not hard.
- For those of you who know me, know that my eldest Son Malachi started playing football for his first time two summers ago.
- Now for a long time leading up to the first season my then, little 6yr old boy Malachi would say things like I can’t wait to hit someone, I can’t wait to hit them so hard I will see snot bubbles, I can’t wait to.....well I think you get the picture
- He basically was very excited to play and to drive his pads into the helmet of an opposing player
- But, for the first two months of playing in pre-season, my little 6yr old did not put pads on, he did not lock arms on the line of scrimmage, he did not hear the sound of pads crunching together, he did not “HIT” anyone

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- WHY???? Because before he could be let onto the field, before he could put his pads on, before he could strap on his helmet, before he could be trusted..... He had to know how to follow orders and be obedient to his Coach
- Well it is the same for us. How do we expect to be used to our full potential to lay some serious hits against the enemy, until we can follow the instructions of the Holy Spirit and be Obedient to Christ.
- The example of obedience is something that we can easily identify with in our children.
- When we ask them to do something, we expect them to do it..all the way, not half way, but all the way.
- Well the same goes for you and I. We should not look to be obedient only 50% of the time. Our obedience should be displayed and understood to be a 100%.
- The meaning of the word “Obedient” is “Dutifully complying with the commands, orders, or instructions of one authority.
- Let me read that again.... It says ONE Authority. Lets let Christ be that ONE Authority and be completely Obedient to him today.
- And if asked of you “Who Am I !!!!” (I AM AN OBEDIENT)

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- Number 8) The eighth and final characteristic that the lord gives us is “to be Noble”
- But what is a “Good Noble Heart?”
- Jesus said that only the "Good and noble heart." receives the word and produces fruit. Do I have a Good and noble heart? Do you have a Good and Noble Heart?
- To answer this question, we need to know what is a "Good and Noble Heart?"
- 1) A Noble Heart is A Noble Heart is A Loving Heart
 - Mark 12:30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.
 - Mark 12:33 And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.
- 2) A Noble Heart is A believing Heart
 - Romans 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- 3) A Noble Heart is A pure Heart
 - Psalms 73:1 Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.
- 4) A Noble Heart is A meditating Heart
 - Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.
- 5) A Noble Heart is A giving Heart
 - 2 Corinthians 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
- 6) A Noble Heart is A rejoicing Heart
 - Acts 2:26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

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- 7) A Noble Heart is A Heart Strengthened by God
 - Psalms 27:14 (NKJV) Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

- So, how's Your Heart Today???
- Is it.... A
 - Heart Of Courage
 - Heart of Humility
 - Heart the is Anchored in Christ
 - Heart of Meekness
 - Heart of Peace
 - Heart of Influence
 - Heart of Obedience
 - Heart of Noble Character

- I believe that's what God has intended it to be, so its time for you to let it be. Let it be The Heart of A CHAMPION!!!

- God has made us all unique yet he has placed these similar characteristics or attributes in all of us.

- Today needs to be a new day where we believe that with our whole hearts.