

## Who Are You?

by Hendrik Joubert

One of the most accurate sayings, accredited to George Bernard Shaw, is: *Life is not about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.* We live in a society where the blame game has been played, not to perfection but rather to depravation. Due to the absence of a sense of righteousness, as well as self-control, many set out to *learn* what their inner desires are (*what makes them tick*) so they may have *inner peace* and *happiness*. Many never seem to find out who they are and some lead dysfunctional lives while others decide that they *must be complex individuals* and continue the search.

The foolishness of man is somewhat scary at times. *Gurus* and other philosophers are a dime a dozen as this foolishness is presented as *sophistication*. This amount to nothing more than empty self-worship and does not bring lasting inner peace. When man refuses to acknowledge God there is no end to his foolishness and down right sinfulness: ***Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Romans 1:24-25***

*Creating yourself* seems at first an arrogant and self-centered idea and could amount to simply that and nothing more. However the principle of a decisive change for the better is an action demanded by the Lord when He announces: ***I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. Luke 5:32.*** The following powerful statement makes it abundantly clear that God expects the sinner to change: ***And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? <sup>3</sup> "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in ? <sup>5</sup> "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." Luke 13:2-5***

It is important that the individual illustrates faith in God and reverence for Him by learning from God who he or she needs to change into. One who accepts the Lord's call to repentance demonstrates true humility towards God and becomes His *workmanship*: ***For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10.***

When man takes it upon himself to decide what he needs to do in order to please God, and what the Lord God should accept as worship, it speaks of arrogance in the extreme. Jesus quotes what God said through the prophet Isaiah to illustrate a timeless principle: ***BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN. Matthew 15:9.*** In spite of this clear warning literally thousands of creeds have been compiled by men to instruct others on how to become a follower of Christ – a *Christian*. They proclaim that each of us may worship God the way we decide. How could a sinner substitute human traditions for God's commandments – keeping in mind the specific warning in **Matthew 15**. The context wherein the Lord makes the statement vividly illustrates the sinfulness of this idea.

Because the consequences are considered outside the realm of possibility the obvious conclusion is rejected. *If that is the case, do you realize how few will be saved? "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> "For the gate is small and the*

**way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14.**

A comparison between those who consider themselves Christians and the rest causes many to feel safe, however in the same conversation the Lord adds: **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.** <sup>22</sup> **"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'** <sup>23</sup> **"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'** Matthew 7:21-23

It is not the atheist, who openly rejects God, nor the Moslem, Hindu or any person who rejects Jesus as the Christ who says "Lord, Lord." The Lord is speaking of those who worship Him with their mouths (**Matthew 15:8**), but fail to create the person He instructs them to be by doing the will of His Father who is in heaven. Notice that **many will say to Me on that day**, illustrating an unprecedented level of confidence on the part of many who *reason* with the Lord, only to learn that they have never had a relationship with Him.

How may we know with certainty that we are what God wants us to be? **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;** <sup>17</sup> **so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.** Those who follow His guidance allow Him to create the new self, and become His workmanship. **Ephesians 2:10.**