

I am NOT vs I Am

Most of us could make a long list of "I am Not_____". Only a few who come through the doors of MHH have a clue as to who they truly are. As a matter of fact, the Western world is full of those who do not have an understanding of their true identity. They have been lied to, and they have believed they are "Not".

The Dark Whisper

We entertain the dark whisper of the Enemy in our minds. Most of us do not think about our thinking, rather we intently focus on the lies that are spinning in our heads. These lies center around self talk like: "I am not worthy, not acceptable, not healthy, not beautiful, not smart, not a success, not loved, not good enough." And the list goes on. I believe that the biggest lie of the Enemy was first spoken to Adam in the Garden of Eden. Adam believed the whisper, "You are not acceptable," and he hid from God. Because of Adam's poor choices, we lost our point of reference, our conscious relationship with the Triune God, our home, our significance, our dignity, and our true identity. In today's world, underlying all the greatness of our culture is a profound crisis of identity.

C. Baxter Kruger expounds on our false identity by saying this: "God became a spectator and we lost the secret of our identity and our reason for being on earth. So, Western culture embarked upon a mission to invent a new identity, to create a new life, to manufacture meaning, to dream up something that would confer significance and glory upon us. We spend millions of dollars inventing legendary Olympic Games and Super Bowls and World Series in a mad and desperate attempt to manufacture glory..."

We are convinced that we are "Not," and we are driven to find a way to "become" what we believe we are not. When we cannot find what we long for - we invent it. We barter for a new god. When we cannot see the glory that has been given to us in Jesus Christ, we seek to create a glory that we can see. What happens when our invented glory proves to be empty, hollow, sad and lonely? We become confused, angry and cynical. There is incongruity between the real life we could have in Jesus Christ and the legendary life we are trying to live. We see fulfilled the word of Psalm 16:4. "The sorrows of those who have bartered for another god will be multiplied."

Divine Whisper

We have the potential for great joy if we would only listen to the Divine whisper; God's "I AM" whisper. John 14:20 says, "In that day you will know that I am **in** My Father and you **in** Me, and I **in** you." Again, John 14:23 says, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode **with** him." (emphasis mine) Because the Triune God abides with us, His "I AM" cancels out our "I am Not."

We hear God's divine whisper in a variety of ways: reading His Word, listening to a beautiful piece of music, having a cup of coffee with the Lord on the back porch, watching a play, listening to a sermon...

The dark-whisper lies are held in place by what we believe. Take a few minutes to examine what you believe. For example, the next time you say, "I am NOT worthy," ask yourself what is holding that lie in place. Better yet, ask Jesus to show you what is holding the lie in place. Then ask Him to show you the truth. The "Not's" in your vocabulary can be replaced with His, "I AM."

Dan