



The Character Company

Additional Material: Articles (written by Uncle Keith)

Something to think about

Ask yourself this question: “Who am I?” Think for a few moments about the answer. Now ask it three more times putting the emphasis on the bold, underlined word each time:

1. “**Who** am I?”
2. “Who **am** I?”
3. “Who am **I**?”

Did you come up with an answer? How did the answers differ between 1, 2 & 3 or were they the same? “Who am I” is not a new question. Men throughout the ages have asked this question so it must be important. People have also tried to answer this question and as a result, we have many suggestions about the correct answers. One way of understanding who you are is to think of yourself as a colourful, stained-glass window or a more up-to-date example, a modern flat TV screen. Every image that you see on a TV screen is made up of hundreds of thousands of pixels of light of differing colours. It takes several pixels to make one image. And every image is different! Human beings a bit like that. Many parts make up both our bodies and our minds. There are many ways of trying to describe who we are. Some of these are:



- Our motions and moods
- Our values
- Self-esteem
- Confidence
- Our hopes and dreams
- Ethical stance
- Self-control
- * Impulsiveness
- * Courage
- * Resilience
- * The way we express yourself
- * The things we keep secret
- * Our optimism or pessimism
- * Our measure of achievement



All these things put together, like all the pixels on a flat TV screen, make up who we are. Our Image! But, wait. We have forgotten an important aspect of our identity - To whom do we belong?

Think of all the things that you own in life. Take for example your shoes. They are yours. Let's say they are a pair of CATERPILLARS. They have a name. They are yellow and brown. Have a thick sole and smell like leather. All these things are part of your shoe's identity. That was the case for all CAT shoes. Then you bought them and started wearing them.



Now those CATs belong to someone who is slowly changing them. At first, they were a little bit uncomfortable but as you walk, they wear in. They are taking the shape of your feet. Because you walk differently to everyone else, the sole wears down in a unique way. Some scuff marks develop on the side and they begin to smell different. You have given those CATs a different identity.

Notice, it was only once the shoes belonged to you and they had surrendered to your feet. They became useful and protected your feet. They walked where you walked; they rested when you rested. And what is more, they began to look like you (well, like your feet).

When we are small, we are dependent on our parents or caregivers. As we grow, we become more independent and make more decisions for ourselves, based on who we are becoming. For a Christian, a very important decision is to accept The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to take away the sins of the world. When we do that and undertake to follow Him, we become His; we have been bought with a price, a little like those CATs. We take on the "shape" of the Master, Jesus, our Saviour. We begin to walk in His footsteps as we surrender to Him. We also have His Spirit within. This gives us reason to review aspects of our former identity such as the things we find important (values), things that we do (courage, self-control), reasons for thinking and doing things (motive and motivation) and our view of the future on earth and beyond (home).

Think about what it means for us to belong to God. We have been bought at a price. We have a new identity in Him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. - John 1:12