

Welcome to this message-presentation, brought to you by:  
"Discovery Crossroads Ministry". We certainly hope and pray that something you hear something in this message today, that will set your heart to reeling, with New Understandings!

Today's message title is: "**Who AM I, Really?**"

What a question – "WHO Am I, Really?" or maybe we could ask "**Who SHOULD I be?**".

Seriously, how do you move ahead, in life, if you DON'T KNOW "WHO" you are, now?

The Lord of Life, Jesus Christ constantly said of Himself, "I Am". He used these words to "Identify" Himself.

By KNOWING WHO He was, He was able to move ahead, and do what He was purposed to, on this earth!

Point: Apart from His "I Am" statement He wouldn't have known WHO He was or WHAT His life-mission was!

\* So, how do YOU use the phrase "**I Am Who/What?**".

“I Am”, is a deep statement. It involves something DEEPER than just knowing “SOME” aspects of ourselves. It involves knowing the “DEEPEST” aspects of ourselves!

*Who Am I, Really?* We truly are only: **who or what we are in the dark; all the rest is reputation.**

*What does that mean?*

a) “**in the dark**” ..... that means: “*Who are you – When no one else is looking or listening?*” When you are all alone (with no one to impress or with no one to shuck & jive, etc.)

*Who Are You Really, Then?*

b) “**reputation**” ..... that means: “*Who you have become known as – by others*”. It’s all about the Identity that THEY have placed upon you. They formed it, by the things that YOU have said and done, in their presence. They have formed it, by the things that OTHERS have told them, about you.

\* *Who are you in the dark, with just yourself?*

\* *Who are you – by the reputation-definitions, that others say about you?*

\* We need to KNOW the answers to these big “I Am” questions. Look, knowing ourselves on a “Conscious” level never allows us to REALLY know ourselves Deeply. We must know ourselves on

a "Subconscious" (Deeper) level (*where our Secret desires, beliefs, habits, and dreams hide*), before we can REALLY say, "I AM", anything!

Knowing yourself on just a "Conscious" level, means you can only say, "**I THINK I am**", or "**I MIGHT BE**".

Knowing yourself on a "Subconscious" level, means you can truly say, "*I REALLY DO KNOW who I am*".

Seriously, it is NOT enough to just know your thoughts, we must "come to know" what "STARTED" those thoughts!

Point: A thought that CANNOT be changed HAS a Deeper (Secret) MOTIVE, that's to blame!

*Everything has a Deeper side, that we often don't see.*

For example: The Deepest root of a tree, is still a part of the tree even though it cannot be seen, below the ground!

Like that tree root: Humans have Deeper roots than we really know. I say, "I am not just a sentence, in the book of my life – but I am also a paragraph ,and all the chapters, as well". In other words (iow), "The book of my life, is MORE than the one little sentence, that I live out every day". OK so, what is it, that God sees in us in the dark? He can see: 1) the imaginations of our minds 2) the thoughts of our heart 3) the habits of our bodies

4) the actions of our being (what we do *with life - good, bad, or nothing at all*) and 5) the words that come from our mouth (if we *encourage people, if we discourage them or if we try to destroy them with our words*). These are the things that mark us in God's sight. These are the things, that God uses to identify "*Who we really are, in the dark!*".

In the Bible, **1 Samuel 16:7b** "*The Lord does not see, as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*" NKJV

Come on, many of you KNOW, that this is a true statement – people REALLY DO gauge us (measure us), by our *Outward appearances!*

*Let's break down 1 Samuel 16:7b.....*

a) "**outward appearance**"... We are always judging people by their outward appearances. We like to determine what the person's "life-content" is, by what we see of them on the outside ~ *low*: We always decide who or what the person is, by the cover of their book.

Meanwhile, we (ourselves) ADJUST our own "outward appearance" through putting on "Masks and Make-up". Good glory, every day we live our lives on: Pretenses, Perspectives & Impressions. It's a

never-ending cycle of living in and up to, these powerful identifiers!

Pretenses, Perspectives & Impressions (*call them: "PPI's"*), can be both ***self-created, or created by others!***

Certainly, "WE" do create PPI's about ourselves, placing a burden upon our own soul. Yet, "OTHERS" also create PPI's about us, and they transmit them, from one person to another like a bad plague.

Here, look at the individual definitions of each of these PPI's:

a **Pretense** is: "an attempt to make something that is NOT true appear TO BE true."

a **Perspective** is: "a particular attitude toward something or, a way of regarding something". It's a POV (a Point of View, that We and Others hold, about us)". It's an **Impression** is: "an idea, feeling, or opinion, about something or someone, especially one formed WITHOUT conscious thought, or with little (to no) evidence."

Tell me, that we do not suffer from our own "self-made", and "others-created", PPI's? We live them out, daily!

Have you ever tried to live your life, broadcasting untrue Pretenses, Perspectives, and Impressions, onto others?

Have you ever been labeled (by other people), with untrue Pretenses, Perspectives, and Impressions, about yourself?

When I speak of "PPI's", I'm really talking about the "Masks and Make-up" that we put on (everyday), trying to fool people or, cover up our own insecurities!

So, what are some of the Masks and Make-up, that we put on? (here's just a small list): Getting Botox injections to change our skin-features - or getting breast-implants (not for medical reasons), but to make others take a second look - or putting on Clothes, that we would normally NOT wear (to be appealing) - or Bleaching our teeth, to cover up the stains - or wanting multi-colored eyes, to fascinate & bedazzle people - or buying Fancy cars, just to look cool - or wearing Bling-Bling, to give an impression of being rich - or Dying our hair, all to fit into a certain sect of people - or getting a Tattoo, in an attempt to fit in with others in society - or trying to keep up with the Joneses (*neighbors*), just to prove that they have nothing on us - or taking drugs, or alcohol (to cover over are problems). HOWEVER, the problem with putting on Masks and Make-up (*to get attention or to cover up our scars*), is that they can get TOO HEAVY, for us to KEEP holding up, or putting on.

Our Masks and Make-up are made of iron. They can weigh way TOO MUCH, for us to keep up the JUGGLING ACT. Yeah, we put

on WAY TOO MUCH Make-up (*cosmetics*) to the point that, people can literally see it CRACKING on us!

Doing things, for the sake of changing our "*Outward appearance*" DOES NOTHING to change our "*Inward appearance*". *It's all "Meaningless Vanity"*.

If anything today, can you agree that what I've just said, about Masks and Make-up and PPI's, really does happen in our lives?

OK, time to move on... Let me remind you of our passage today;

**1 Samuel 16:7b**, "*The Lord does not see, as man sees..... for man looks at the outward appearance, But the Lord looks at the heart.*" NKJV

b) "**at the heart**" ... For God: "*At the heart of the matter Depends on, What is the matter with the heart*"....(low: *God looks at: "What our **heart-condition** is?"*.)

He wants to know:

1) What are YOUR **THOUGHTS**?.... (*are your thoughts: evil; nasty; seeking revenge; dirty; worldly; all about yourself; plotting no good; conspiring to cause harm; etc., etc.? or, are they good; pure; righteous; just; holy/heavenly; seeking reconciliation; selfless; aiming to please God; etc.?*)

- 2) What are YOUR **MOTIVES**?.... *(the reason you think, say, and do something.) (are they something that God would approve of or, are they something He would despise?)*
- 3) What are YOUR **SCHEMES**?.... *(the plans, or programs of action that your thoughts and motives, have dreamed up, to get your way)-(are they lying; cheating; crafty; stealing; creating divisions; stirring up hatred; contemplating murder; secret; devious; etc. or, are they truthful; honest; straight forward; unifying; loving; encouraging; pure; in the open; godly; etc.?)*
- 4) How **COLD** is YOUR HEART?.... *a heart that is cold as ice; frozen. (Is it uncaring; unconcerned; unfeeling; insensitive; unsympathetic; unkind; cruel; unaffected; merciless; etc. or, can it care; have concern; feel; be sensitive and sympathetic; be warm and kind; show mercy; etc.?)*
- 5) How **HARD** is YOUR HEART?.... *a heart of stone; immovable; rigid. (Is it broken; bitter; brittle; heavy; sharp/rough; forceful; worn and tired; unteachable; etc. - or is it intact; content; flexible/pliable; light; beautifully rounded and soft; moldable and teachable, etc.?)*

So, When God looks "**at the heart**" (or "in the heart"), He is wondering: *What are the COMPLICATIONS with a heart that is*

*NOT in "good-condition". A heart that might have bad: Thoughts; Motives; Schemes; or is: Cold or Hard)!*

\* For a heart that is NOT is "good-condition", will:

1) struggle with impersonation (*putting on airs and masks*).

2) struggle with falseness (*putting on Make-up*).

3) feel & experience much pain & suffering.

4) know vanity (it will know: *excessive pride, or admiration, of one's own appearance or achievements - that ends in emptiness*).

The wisest guy that ever lived (*Solomon*) said of life & our toil under the sun (*and I add, all the Pretenses, Perspectives and Impressions that we broadcast to others*) - that it is all "**Vanity**".

He wrote in **Ecclesiastes 1:2**, "**Vanity of vanities, all is vanity**"

NKJV *His point: All of the PPI's (Masks and Make-up) that we put on is "Meaningless" especially before the Lord, our God!*

*Goodness folks, I'm amazed at just how easily we "blend into" the environment that we create for ourselves or that others create for us like those chameleon lizards. But, in the end of all our time on earth - God's Opinion, is the only One that's gonna count!*

*OK, so look: If I have done anything today – May it be, that I have gotten you to, Question: "Who or What You Are, Really – in*

*the dark – just between you and God?” So, if you come to find, that some things need to go (that you really do not like, about yourself) – ASK God to help relieve you of them ~ for He waits for us to CALL and simply ASK for His Help! It’s as easy as ASKING: “God, help me to...”*

### **“Discovery Questions”**

If the Lord indeed, looks are your heart, and not so much your outward appearance – then what should you look for, inside of your heart?

- 1) What are Your thoughts?** (i.e. *Are they good & pure, or are they maybe something lesser?*)
- 2) What are Your motives?** (i.e. *Are they something that God would approve of, or something He would Not approve of?*)
- 3) What are Your Schemes?** (i.e. *Are they self-centered, or others-centered?*)
- 4) Is Your Heart Cold?** (i.e. *Is your heart cold as ice, frozen & unfeeling, or is it warm, able to care & feel?*)

**5) Is Your Heart Hard?** (i.e. *Is your heart hard as a rock & impenetrable, or is it soft and pliable?*)

\* These are Deep questions about the condition of your heart, before God's Eyes – so please answer them honestly!