

**A Different Perspective**  
**Living Life to the Full By Knowing Who I Am**  
**09-42-2**  
**Before Time Began**

It seems these days that so many people are like refugees in search of an identity. Who am I? What's it all about? Where's life headed. And as we saw on yesterday's program it's a tough gig to go through life without an identity. Journeying through life without a deep profound sense of who we are is like going to a foreign land and losing your passport.

If you were to ask yourself a question, 'Do I really truly know myself? Do I understand who I am - my personality, my likes, my dislikes, the things that motivate me, my real strengths, the things that I'm not so good at and the things I don't enjoy? How would you answer that?

On a scale of one to ten how would you rate your knowledge of yourself - who **you are**. The problem is, so many can't answer that because they don't know who they are meant to be. All they sometimes have is a nagging suspicion inside, an unsettling feeling that the answer's more of a 'no' than a 'yes'; more a two or three than an eight or nine out of ten. Am I being the me I was meant to be? Hmm. I don't know, that's a really good question.

I don't know how to talk about this except, at least in part, from my own experience because really knowing who I am, knowing who God created me to be is one of the compelling issues of life.

Now by global standards I grew up in a pretty well-off household, we had plenty of food and a roof over our head and I had a good education and one of my physical attributes, as well as being short and not being able to run very fast, is having a high IQ so I managed to do well at school. I had the choice of doing whatever I wanted to do when I finished school.

I was interested in these emerging things they call computers back in those days. So I left high school and I went to The Royal Military College, Duntroon the officer training academy for our army, like England's Sandhurst and USA's West Point. Now I graduated and spent ten years in the military and well paying jobs after that and owned a consulting firm for 17 years in the IT industry and spoke at international conferences and lived the high life.

I had life basically on a silver platter, sure it had it's ups and downs. I had to work hard, I had to strive for things. But by any standard I

had it pretty good. And I kind of enjoyed that stuff but all along I just found that nothing quite ever satisfied me.

I was so concerned about being the best and what other people thought of me I couldn't actually relax and enjoy my life. I was successful on the outside but on the inside I had a deep sense of inadequacy and failure and the feeling of being a fraud. And that's how I lived life day by day for many, many years. And believe you me, looking back on it, I can say this now, it was not a lot of fun. Why? What was going on?

I had this emerging sense I wasn't living life to the full. That I wasn't being the me I was meant to be. Somehow I wasn't living out my destiny despite all the good things that were happening in my life. I had this sort of vague distant belief in God, but even in my late thirties when I gave my life over to Him, when I became a Christian, still something wasn't right.

I look back on it now and I know that there was something missing, things I didn't really understand. For me the starting point of living my life to the full, of becoming who I was meant to be is knowing where I've come from and who I am. So many people in the midst of life aren't really comfortable with who they are and where life is going so they don't have a real sense of security. You're more like a cork bobbing around in a stormy ocean. We are going to explore that today through Psalm 139.

I come back again and again in my own life because it reminds me of where I've come from and who I am. What I love about this Psalm is that writer starts in the middle of the dilemmas of life and works his way back to God to discover who he is. And ultimately he comes to this point. Have a listen:

*"God, you created my innermost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful and I know that full well, because my frame wasn't hidden from you when I was being made in that secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth your eyes saw my unformed substance. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake I'm still with you."*

There's something that really strikes me in there and this is one of those passages in the Bible that is beautiful and wondrous to me

and I keep coming back to it, as I said, again and again. It's like my passport; it tells me who I am. We all started off our lives in our mother's womb, a dark hidden place in the depths of the earth, and God created our innermost being. He knits together in our mother's womb. And we can praise Him because we are fearfully and wonderfully made by Him.

God made me who I am. God made you who you are. It's His choice you know. When we have bits about ourselves and our lives that we like and we have other bits that we don't like so much. Yes, some people say, 'I wish I was smarter, I wish I was taller'. You know what I mean?

But not only does God make us who we are - each strand of our DNA according to the blueprint of his great and mighty heart for you and me - He also planned every day of our lives:

*"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them they would outnumber the grains of all the sand."*

When we talk about living life to the full, about being the person we were meant to be, **the first part** of that is knowing that God made us the way we are. I'm not supposed to be like the next person. I'm not supposed to have your gifts and your talents and the looks of that person over there or anyone else. I'm supposed to be me. I'm supposed to be who God made me to be. And the same with you. You're supposed to be who God made you to be.

And **secondly** our lives aren't about some karma or vague sense of chance or destiny, our lives have a definite plan. Before any of the days yet existed every day ordained for you and for me was written in God's book, God's blueprint. Our DNA and our days. Who we are and what would happen, the years ahead, every thought, every desire, every dream, every hope, every hurt, every experience. He knit us together in our innermost being and set every day before us according to His plan.

You and I are who we are because that's how He made us. You and I are living the lives we have because that's what He ordained for us. That's profound and wonderful and beautiful and so many people spend so much of their lives not liking themselves when all the time we are who we are because of God's infinite wisdom and grace and mercy and creativity.

He planned us. He knew us and all our days in His heart before time began. Let me challenge you today. Let me get right in your face with this. Are you prepared to live every minute of every day in this wondrous knowledge. If you want to be the person that God meant you to be then it's time to accept that God made you to be exactly who you are and He sets every day of your life before you.