

Who Am I...A Masterpiece!

Ephesians 2:1-10 NLT

November 25, 2018

Has anyone ever told you that you are a "piece of work?" Usually when someone tells you that you are some kind of "piece of work" you need to thank them! Why? Because you are a Masterpiece!

What makes a piece of work a masterpiece?
A master makes a masterpiece!

How many of you, in your art gallery at home, have or have had in the past, masterpieces of art hanging on your refrigerator from your master artists...your kids or grandkids?

What started out as a blank piece of paper became this creative, often outside the lines, master piece of art. You have the eyes to see the master's hand at work in that artwork. Your love sees the beauty in the picture when others might look at it with no emotion at all, or with a look that says, "What is that?" You personally know the little master artist that created that prized piece of art work you have hanging in your art gallery. You cherish their signature on their artwork in their personal handwriting. Your love for the artist gives you the heart appreciation for their work.

This was recently played out for me on a visit to our son's home. Our daughter-in-law wanted to show us a piece of artwork that our freshman granddaughter in college sent to her mom. She told her mom that she was "doodling" in class. Not necessarily what a parent wants to hear their daughter is doing in a college class lecture.

She pulled up the "doodling" piece of work on her phone and showed it to my wife and I. I don't know about you but when I "doodle" its a bunch of lines and goofy faces on stick figures. That is the "doodling" I anticipated seeing. When I looked at my granddaughter's "doodling" it was amazing. Here was a pencil drawing face of a person. It was a piece of work...beautiful artwork. It was not mere, "doodling" it was a wonderful piece of art work.

Here is where you and I enter the picture, the art gallery, the "doodling" in class canvas of life.

Many of us look at our lives as "a piece of work." We see ourselves as not much more than a toddler's picture on a refrigerator door or a bored freshman's doodling project in class. We need to hear our parents' take on our pictures...those who love us and appreciate the beauty in who we are...pieces of work... a Master's piece!

It begins with the blank canvas of life.

Who do we listen to? Who do we say who we are in life? Who do we allow to "doodle" who we are on the pages of our lives?

When others look at you, your life, who do you listen to?

This was a crucial question that God, the creator, asked Adam and Eve. God created Adam and Eve in His image. They were more than refrigerator artwork...a doodling project while he was bored in Creation 101 class. They were "pieces of work." They were Masterpieces, because the Master had created them. And the love of the Heavenly Father looked at his "pieces of work" and said they were beautiful.

But then enters the "static of Satan." He gets in Adam and Eve's ear and starts challenging them. They listened to Satan's static of who they were and they sinned by eating fruit from the tree God told them not to eat.

They realized they had sinned and also saw their nakedness. They hid from God. God finds them and asked them why they were hiding. They told Him they realized their nakedness, their sinful selves.

Then this was where God asked the question, "**Who told you that?**" God was asking them who told them they were naked and sinful? They finally narrowed it down to Satan and his lies. (Genesis 3:1-11)

"Who told you that?"

That is the first question we need to be asked as we take a look at who we are as a "piece of work."

"Who told you that?" is a question that asks us, "Who are you listening to? Who are you letting tell you who you are?"

There is still a lot of static in the air today by Satan. Although we most likely will not encounter a snake in a garden of paradise talking to us, we have and will encounter his static in and through others we meet daily as we walk through life.

The "static of society", colleagues, and even family and friends fill our minds as to who we are. Who are you listening to? Who told you that?

You may have heard it in front of the mirror this morning as you were getting ready to head out into a new day. You may have heard the static, "Why bother! It doesn't matter how much make up you apply, or what clothes you put on, or how you do your hair, nothing will make you look good...you're too flabby or too skinny, you're too pale or too dark...you're too old!"

You may have heard it at work, or on the streets. Why try because no one notices you or your value of work. You may hear it from family or friends who don't think you will amount to anything in life...you have been a loser, a black sheep of the family...that is who you are and will be.

At the end of the day, who did you listen to? Who told you what you are thinking about yourself? This "static of society" drowns out the still small voice of God, the Creator, our Heavenly Father.

Do you remember the old school radios where you had to tune in a station by slowly turning the tuner dial. There would be this static sound drowning out the clarity of the station you were looking for. You could faintly hear it but the static was overbearing. You kept turning the tuning dial until the static was eliminated and you could clearly hear the music or football game you wanted to listen to.

We hear so little because we allow the "static of society" and others to drown out the words God, our Creator, wants to say to us. We are made in His image. He looks at us and calls us good..."a piece of work." God says who I am...a Masterpiece...a Master's piece of work!

IMAGE!

The older I get the more my family and friends, who knew my father, tell me I am looking more and more like him. I am looking more and more like my father, not only in the physical looks, but my mannerisms, outlook on life, smile and whistling!

God created man and woman to "**reflect His image!**" (Genesis 1:27)

Whose image are you reflecting in life? Who do you look more and more like as you grow and mature? We are created in the image of God the Father and Jesus Christ our Savior. We are to become more and more like Christ as we grow in our faith.

David the psalmist reflected on our being made in the image of God when he wrote these words:

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made...your works are wonderful God." (Psalm 139:14)

God's image, His character, goes into each person. When we feel worthless, or even begin to hate ourselves for who we are or look like or act like, remember whose image we have been created in. God's Spirit is willing and ready to remind you of that image and to guide you to grow more and more into the image of Christ Jesus.

We are to look within and see the image of Jesus in us and see the image of Jesus in others. That is whose image we are created to grow more and more into the likeness of as we mature in our faith.

Whose image are you trying to live up to or imitate in your life?

Society's or the Savior's?

Culture's or the Creator's?

Social Media's or the Master's?

Other's expectations or Your Heavenly Father's?

God says I am His masterpiece!

We confirm God's calling in our lives when we affirm His image in us.

We can say, "I don't like myself the way I am in this stage of life, but I am a child of God, loved by my Heavenly Father."

We can say, "I don't see hope for me after all the wrong I have done to myself and others. But God says I am forgiven and set free."

We can say, "I feel weak and tired as I struggle with the day in and day out of life. But God says, I am more than a conqueror through His strength in me."

Who are you listening to?

Whose image are you trying to maintain?

Are you looking more and more like Jesus the older you get?

LABEL!

It's time to realize who has placed His signature on your life. It's time to sort through the lies and liars and discover the true label of value that has been placed on your canvas of life.

As a boy I remember standing outside the Atlanta Braves locker room after a game hoping to get some autographs. I had an ordinary baseball and a pen. Many players signed the baseball, but there was one autograph that brought real value to the baseball. Henry Aaron signed that baseball that night. Over the years that ball has grown in value simply because of Henry Aaron's signature.

Or another way to look at the value of a signature is to have a check in your hand made out to you for \$5,000. Wow! But here's the deal...there is no signature from the one gifting you the check. It is not worth anything without the signature of the owner of the account it was drafted from.

Who have you allowed to label your life...to place their signatures on your life? Many people will make their mark on your life. But there is only one signature, mark, that will bring the greatest value to who you are...Jesus Christ!

Jesus Christ gave His life, signed and sealed our lives with His own blood. He died so we could have life. His signature on our lives validates, authenticates who we are...we are a Master's piece!

We are given a new label...a new life. We no longer live the labels that we give ourselves or others try to put on us. We live the life of Christ. (Galatians 2:20)

Our life's value is no longer measured by earthly labels or values. We are citizens of heaven, we are given eternal life! Our value is found in Jesus. Our inheritance is with the One who endorsed our lives with His signature of unconditional love.

God, our Creator, our Heavenly Father, in whose image we have been created, tells us who we are.

Who Am I...?

I am...

A child of God.

Forgiven and free.

A part of the body of Christ.

A citizen of heaven...eternal life!

A Courageous Conqueror.

Thankful.

A Master's piece of work!

As a Master's piece we are not to stay to ourselves. He wants to put us on display.

He wants to show the creative beauty of His "doodling" in our hearts and lives.

He created us as Master pieces to do His good works...to do the things He planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10)

Who are you listening to in your life? Static of Satan or the clarity of the Creator.

Whose image are you living up to? Culture's or Christ's!

Who or what label are you seeking to bring value to your life?

Who are you? You are a "piece of work...A Master's piece!"