

WHO AM I? Psalm 8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Three basic questions of man:
 - a. Who am I?
 - b. How did I get here?
 - c. Where am I going?
2. Our concern with first question; answers the other two.
3. Can be asked with emphasis on each word.
4. Always answered with superficial response, name, job, parents.
5. Deeper consideration:
 - a. We continually ask ourselves this question.
 - b. How should we act?
 - c. How do others perceive me? "O, what a wonderful seer to be, to see myself as others see me." (anonymous)
6. Crucial that we answer it correctly.

I. WE ARE NOT WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US

- A. Others' view of us flawed. (3 seconds to size up)
 1. Others might not think highly enough of us.
 2. On other hand, they may think too highly of us. Lk 6:26
 - a. Preachers may fall into this category.
 - b. Parents and children see through tinted glasses.
 - c. Illustration: Joe Garagiola on retiring from baseball
 3. Others cannot know us very well. 1 Cor. 2:11
- B. Examples from the Bible; David and Saul, Jeremiah and kings of Judah, Jesus and Jewish leaders. John 7:20
- C. We can be thankful then, that we are not what others think of us.

II. WE ARE NOT WHAT WE THINK OF OURSELVES

- A. We cannot know ourselves very well. Jeremiah 17:9
- B. We can easily deceive ourselves. Gal. 6:3
 1. Too easy on ourselves - Ann Landers quote
 2. Too hard on ourselves

III. WE ARE WHAT GOD THINKS OF US

- A. Only God can know us perfectly. Jeremiah 17:10
- B. John 3:16
- C. 2 Peter 3:9
- D. Ephesians 2:1-6

Joe Garagiola: "Each year I don't play I get better!" said Joe Garagiola. "The first year on the banquet trail I was a former ballplayer, the second year I was great, the third year one of baseball's stars, and just last year I was introduced as one of baseball's immortals. The older I get, the more I realize that the worst break I had was playing."

Ann Landers: Know Yourself. Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.