

## "Who Am I?"

by Bill Crews

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Johni Pangalila once said:

"I'm not a smart man, but I know how to find the way to survive. I'm not a strong man, but I always stand up from every fall. I'm not a rich man, but I have what I've earned. I am who I am and I will not let anyone take that from me."

Many people over the centuries have asked themselves "Who am I really?" and "What defines me?" almost if as much as "Where did I come from?" After some thought and some honest soul-searching one can see his or herself as others do, but not until after they see what is the most defining characteristic about a person.

### **Does your name define you?**

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

William Shakespeare, like many others throughout history touched on the question "What defines a person?" It's surely not your name because a name is merely an identification not a defining factor of you.

**Do your thoughts define you?** Although your thoughts are important they are not shown to others unless spoken or acted upon. God defines us by our thoughts as it says in Romans 8:27 He "searches the hearts knows and what the mind of the Spirit is" but other people cannot read our thoughts.

**Do your beliefs define you?** It is a well-known fact that a lot of people don't really live by what they believe. Plus, there is no way to show what you believe without action, James 2:14-17.

**Does your religion define you?** Nobody follows his or her religion with 100% accuracy, and again there is no way to show religion without action or actually living it.

**Does your speech define you?** People lie, manipulate, and say what they don't mean. However, people are always accountable for what they say. For some, public opinion is dependent on what they say but there is something that speaks much louder than words.

**Do actions define a person?** I know a lot of people will disagree with me, but I personally think this is the closest to the truth of what a person really is: he is what he does. It shows your beliefs, religion, and it proves what you say. People do actions out of the thoughts of their heart and the motives of the soul. Beliefs can affect your actions and cause them, but they depend on action, whereas you will have action whether or not you have religion. Occasionally people do actions falsely but to the world your actions define you.

**Ok, so how does knowing any of this help me?** Seeing yourself as other people see you can give you a new perspective on yourself and could change how you think or act. An example we have all heard a bazillion times is "a Christian can't walk into a bar for a glass of milk." It rings true because seeing a Christian walk into a bar would raise eyebrows for people who didn't know the whole story. God may be able to see our hearts but people cannot and that's the root of the matter. So while God sees a thirsty guy craving some milk, other people see a hypocritical drunkard preaching sobriety.

The answer to the question "What defines me?" in my opinion would be: to people, your actions define you; but to God, your heart defines you.

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