



## Wayne's Words

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### Who Are You Really?

It was 9/11 that brought home to me the power of our thoughts, our beliefs, for good or ill. Our lives are shaped by our thoughts, and by what we believe about ourselves. Who do you think you are really?

Paul's letter to the Galatians presses into this question.

Paul is urging his readers not to give in to pressure from some false teachers to be circumcised and so become Jews – 'sons of Abraham' – when they were already 'sons of Abraham' through their faith in Christ. They received the

Spirit through faith in Christ, which is the sign of being God's children. Another way of saying this was 'children of Abraham' (the man of faith) according to God's promise that through Abraham's offspring (Jesus) all nations would be blessed.

What counts, Paul says, is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, but a 'new creation'. This is Paul's great insight and gift to the church, that it is not what we do for God, but what God does in us that makes us who we really are. Jesus died so our sins could be forgiven; God pours his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, making us sons and daughters of God the Father. We are joint heirs and brothers and sisters of Jesus – the one who loved us and gave himself for us. Our life on earth is no longer to be dictated by what the world around us approves or by our own desires. Rather, it is to be shaped by our trusting obedience to the call and work of God in us through his Spirit and his Word. As this is in company with those who also call on his name – the church of the living God.

Dare to embrace your foundational identity and let your mind be renewed and life shaped by the truth of what God has made you – a new creation! You are a member of God's forever family. Be filled with his Spirit and dare to step up to the adventure of God's call on your life. By the Spirit's enabling, express your faith in words and acts of love, to both God and others. You will never regret it.

*God bless,*

*Wayne*