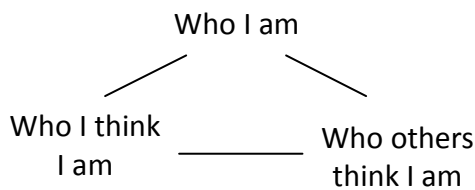


HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME (3)

Identity, self-image, and persona



- What God thinks of me and says about me – God's 'name' for me
- What I think of myself and say about myself – my 'name' for myself
- What others think of me and say about me – others' 'name' for me

1 Corinthians 4:3-6: ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

John 5.30-44

30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true.

32 There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true.

33 You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.

34 Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.

35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen,

38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.

39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

41 I do not receive glory from people.

42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you.

43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?"

What are the (many) ways that all this can go wrong? (Adam – and us in Adam)

1. When my identity is not good – when I have a bad name with God
2. When I don't understand or believe my identity – I don't know what God calls me
3. When I don't like the name that God calls me
4. When there's a mismatch between what God calls me and what I know about myself
5. When I refuse to acknowledge / repress that mismatch
6. When I look elsewhere than the Lord to find out my name / get my identity
7. When other people's names for me matter more to me than the Lord's name for me
8. When there's a mismatch between what God calls me and what other people call
9. When there's a mismatch between what I know about myself and what other people call me
10. When I get names out of proportion – dismissing the whole business or obsessing about it

What is the (only) way that all this can go right? (the Lord Jesus Christ – and us in Christ)

1. All this works when we live "Hallowed be your name"
 - this is what humans are meant to be – God-praisers
 - this is what I think I am and love being – a God-praiser
 - this is my impact on and reputation with others – a God-praiser (eyes on him, not me, of course)