Connect – H UGG - Serve



January10th, 2016

Who Are We?

Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV) Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

Introduction:

The big question that we began to answer from last week's message, "Deliver us from a Poverty Mindset," causes us to Trust in the Sufficiency of God." The question this week is, "Who Are You?"

Today we would desire to help with the answer to that question by the statements God made about us to declare who he has made us to be. For we are who God says we are because He made us and gave us life. **Isaiah 29:16.**

Jesus tells us who we are here in our text in Matthew, and the epistles we will quote, which, only affirms and confirms what Jesus says about who we are.

Who Are You?

- 1. You are an <u>Influencer</u>! Matt.5:13
 - <u>Influencer</u> means the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something.
 - **The Influence of Salt** Our influence is intended to be similar:
 - <u>Flavor</u> Our outside witness to the World. Make them thirsty for a relationship with Jesus.

- <u>Preservation</u> Save souls for Christ and encourage others in Christ to Grow.
- <u>Protection</u> We are called to defend the faith and the faithful.
- 2. You are an <u>Illuminator!</u> Matt. 5:14-16 & 1 Thess. 5:5
 - Illuminator *light up; to help clarify or explain.*
 - Jesus says, in defining who we are, We are the Light of the World...implying that we should have the same effect in the world that visible light does...as such, we should:

Be responsible for the World Seeing the Son!

Lead by our light to Life!

- 3. You are an <u>Illustrator!</u> Eph. 5:8
 - We are Illustrators -From the word "Illustrate" it means to explain or make (something) clear by using examples, charts, pictures, etc.: *to* serve as an example.
 - Walk as Children of Light!
- 4. You are an <u>Elucidator!</u> 1 Pet.2:9

Who are You?

- 1. <u>Chosen Generation</u> *Chosen "eklektos"* which means chosen or elect. As an adjective it means having been selected as the best or most appropriate.
- 2. <u>Royal Priesthood</u> *Royal "basileios"* meaning having the status of a king or queen or a member of their family: in the service or under the patronage of a king or queen. *Priesthood "hierateuma"* meaning servant representative of the King!

- 3. <u>Holy Nation</u> "*Hagios ethnos*" A Different Race (nationality). The church of Jesus is a people now set apart for the Lord, enjoying his special presence and favor.
- 4. <u>Special People</u> His own Special People! Literally meaning "A people belonging to God" (*eis peripoiēsin*). See Mal 3:17 & Isaiah 43:21.

So Who are We? We are God's chosen generation established as a royal priesthood, appointed as a holy nation to be his special possession, so that we would "declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

We are Elucidators. - Which means to make (something) clear; to explain! This is by our words! – We're all preachers of the Gospel!

Conclusion:

All of this culminates in us becoming Authentic and our church becoming Vibrant! There are five things we need to do, and these five things will not only move us to 'Vibrancy'' but, as we obey them, will confirm who we are in Christ and give witness that we Know Him as we following Him. The five things are as follows:

- 365 7/14 Prayer Chain See Website (begin without Prayer Shut-In)
- Street Life Teams (Sign-up on Website)
- HUGG Small groups (We need you to participant sign-up Jan.17th-31st; Winter Session will begin Feb. 7th)
- Need to Resource our ministry Tithing
- Need to Finish what we started \$650k

Notes: