

An Expression of Faith

**So, just who do you think you are?
How do you describe yourself?**

Here's God's answer!!

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: ¹⁰ who in time past were no people, but now [you] are God's people, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. I Peter 2:9-10

Faith, as a gift of the Spirit, is more than an intellectual concept or words on our lips. Faith is made real in our life – all of life – the whole of it, every nook and cranny. God has given us this life, our identity, gifts and capabilities. God is the source of our hope for today and our strength for tomorrow. That means you and I are wholly God's people. Have we become immune to this incredible proclamation? We are God's people!! In Luther's words, "What does this mean?"

How do we respond to this biblical truth?

¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank you, and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴ But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. I Chronicles 29:13-14

In the words of Mark Allan Powell "Stewardship is really just a matter of putting such faith into action... [it is] an expression of faith that moves from creed to practice... to living out that belief in real and obvious ways."

When I was in eighth grade I had to memorize Luther's Small Catechism for the first time. Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostles Creed has echoed in my mind ever since. He wrote:

I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers.

He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil.

All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

What are the implications if we believe this to be true?

Powell also wrote ... "Let the goodness of God take hold of you and, then, give because you want to."

Stewardship is a matter of faith because faith shapes and molds our lives into a living reflection of God's generous grace .