

# *Steeple News*

*New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church  
12809 New Sweden Church Road  
Manor, Texas 78653  
512-281-0056*

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### God and Our Identity

There is a question that haunts every human being, "Who Am I?" Sometimes it is stated differently like "Am I competent? Am I loved? Am I worthwhile?" Very seldom does it disappear altogether. It is a question we ask ourselves as life leads us into varied situations.

In that ongoing struggle to find ourselves and to feel good about ourselves, we are likely to make some mistakes. One mistake we can make is to define ourselves solely by what we do, because what we do is always changing, and life can force unexpected changes on us. One day we are children and the next day we are adults. One day we have a job, the next day technology can render that job obsolete. One day we can handle a task competently, the next day illness or increased responsibilities make us lose control. Some of us jeopardize our identity by basing it on how others respond to us. We make ourselves vulnerable and afraid upon the stage of life, waiting for applause and when it doesn't come, we are bruised and broken. "I am who you think I am", we say with pleading eyes, the center of our lives in the careless hands of others.

Discovering who we are, by our own definition may be life's most important task. One philosopher was heard to say, "Sometimes I feel more like myself." Feeling more like ourselves might be the best safeguard against misery. Few things make us feel more miserable than feeling lost, doubting our abilities, being at the mercy of another's evaluation of us. That is Satan's best tool to make us miserable. It is the same tool he used against Jesus when Jesus had been fasting forty days in the wilderness. "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread!" That taunting "if" was to suggest that Jesus needed to question His identity and make Him doubt that He was the son of God.

The same tool is used to defeat us. We hear him say, "If you are worthwhile..." "If you think you are a good person..." "If you are who you think you are..." But we can defeat that taunting "If" and the best place to do it is on our knees, the Lord revealing to us who we are and always have been. We are lacking in discernment, caught here in the darkness of mortality, but God can see us. And God's view is the important one. "Who am I?", we ask, and the world gives mixed answers. But the Lord will affirm that we are each different and each, like the rest of His creation, "good." We are created "in His image."

Rev. Hans Lillejord