

# *What Defines You?*

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Author: Caleb Wray

In today's world people are constantly trying to define themselves. They are looking to try new things, be involved in new groups, and do anything they can to "define" themselves. Normally, people define themselves by a measure of success. Success is actually in the Bible. The word first appears in many translations in Genesis 24 as Abraham's servant prays to God for success. The Scriptures first describe a man as successful in Genesis 39:2. "The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master."

Again in 1 Samuel 18:14, the Scriptures say, "And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him." Notice that in both instances of men being described in the Bible as being successful, it was when the Lord was with the person. David was successful in fighting the Philistines and Saul became jealous. He was not counted as successful though due to his actions, rather his relationship with God.

People go through life worrying over career advancements, being the "perfect" family, having the top degrees, etc. but what will really determine if we are successful in life is if we have a committed relationship with God. So what defines you? What has the priority in your life?

If work is the priority because you want to be the top at your job, and God plays second to it, then your earthly success means little. Same goes with any of the topics above. Let's look at how we should define ourselves based on the Bible.

First, we are defined as Christians. Acts 11:26 talks about the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. Those that have obeyed the Word of God are called Christians. Disciples are followers of their teacher. As Christians, we are disciples of Christ, and as disciples of Christ we are to follow and imitate Him in our lives. We are not Campbellites, Anti-s, etc. We are Christians striving to follow the Word of God and Christ.

Secondly, we are defined as Brethren. In many of Paul's writings, we will see this terminology used. This shows the family of God. As part of a family, there are aspects that are shown. Family cares for one another, assists one another, and works together. Family sees the importance in leaning on one another for comfort here. If we let the word "brethren" define us, then it must be evident in our relationships with one another.

Thirdly, the Scriptures refer to us as saints in multiple places Jude 3 is a prime example of the faithful believers being called saints. It reminds us to contend for the one faith. When you look at the word saint it gives reference to the word "sanctification". That word gives reference to being set apart. Let's relate that to Matthew 5 (being salt & light of the world). In defining ourselves, we realize that we are in the world, but are not a part of it. We must be different for we are God's people. We see through this word that we are to be different from the world, and through that difference others might come to know more about God.

Fourthly, we are called heirs. (James 2:5a — Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom) As we work on this earth, and strive to live Godly, we are measuring up to the standard God gave in the Bible. How successful we are is determined by how we present ourselves until the day of judgment. As faithful followers of Christ, we are heirs. We have the ability to enter into the Heavenly City on the day of judgment. When looking to define ourselves, we look to see what we gain from our titles and designations. There is nothing greater than living a life acceptable to God so that we can receive our inheritance.

As we go through life, we constantly seek to understand for ourselves what defines us. Many times, we look at it from a worldly view and that leads us to no gain. What we much eagerly look for is are we meeting the Word of God, and if so, that definition alone should be more than enough. —CW