



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN

June 6, 2021

WHO I AM – WHY I AM – WHAT I DO - - Part 14

If you know who you are, you do not need permission to do what you do
Dr. Anthony Mensah

The Reverend Doctor Floyd Prude shared these appropriate and prophetic words:

Be who you is, and not who you ain’t. For if you is who you ain’t, then you ain’t who you is

As we have used the past several weeks to reflect upon who we are, and to reflect upon who we are not, this statement from Rev. Dr. Prude provides a path for my closing thoughts for the first part of the title – that is, Who I Am.

Knowing who I am and being who I am has to be fulfilled independent of others. Independent of whether there are seven billion people in the world or one other person in the world, who I am does not change and is not affected. Far too often, who we are is influenced by the people in our presence or the environments in which we are. Far too often, we compromise who we are to fit in and seek the acceptance of those by whom we are intimidated (although we may never admit it). It is necessary to note that many of those individuals do not know, and are compromising, who they are, and are trying to fit in and seeking the acceptance of those by whom they are intimidated.

When I do not know who I am, I will permit others to treat me as “less than” or “other than” to affirm, elevate and define themselves. They will walk on me and use me as a stepping stone to further elevate their status and affirm their positioning. They will define their good based upon my bad. They will define their success based upon my failure. When I do not know who I am, others will use me as a tool for their advancement, and when they are through with me, they will throw me to the side and move on.

Even worse, when I do not know who I am, I will treat others as “less than” or “other than” to affirm, elevate and define myself. I will walk on them and use them as a stepping stone to further elevate my status and affirm my positioning. I will define my good based upon their bad. I will define my success based upon their failure. When I do not know who I am, I will use others as a tool for my advancement, and when I am through with them, I will throw them to the side and move on.

I must know who I am and I must be who I am. Again, Rev. Dr. Prude instructs us, “*For if you is who you ain’t, then you ain’t who you is.*”

If I am trying to be anyone else, I will fail. It is important to know that I can never be anyone else. I was not created to be anyone else. I can attempt to copy their actions and I can make efforts to imitate their activities, however, I cannot be them.

Additionally, if I am not being me, I will fail. It is important to know that I must be me. If I am not being me, I will not fulfill me – that is, the reason why God created me. Authentic contentment and genuine fulfillment come from knowing who I am and being who I am.

WORK FOR THE WEEK

JUNE MEMORY VERSE

"²¹ The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.

Proverbs 19:21 (NRSV)

JUNE MEDITATION QUOTE

"If all seeds that fall were to grow, then no one could follow the path under the trees."

Ghanaian Proverb

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

What am I going through now that I need God to help me flip? _____

Can I see how God is using me for the benefit of others? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

God has given you a dream, and there are people (including family and friends) whose desire is to kill the dream that God has given you _____

Let God help you flip it _____
