



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

MAY 11, 2021

UP WORDS

## WHO ARE YOU?



PEOPLE ALL AROUND US ARE SUFFERING FROM AN IDENTITY CRISIS. SOME AREN'T SURE IF THEY ARE A MAN OR A WOMAN. OTHERS DON'T KNOW IF THEY ARE A DEMOCRAT, REPUBLICAN OR INDEPENDENT. NOW WE'RE EVEN GETTING SEGREGATED IN VACCINATED AND NOT VACCINATED. A MYSTERY THAT'S PLAGUED PHILOSOPHERS FOR CENTURIES IS THE QUESTION: "WHO AM I."

I WAS INTRIGUED THE OTHER DAY WHEN I CAME ACROSS THE VERSE IN GALATIANS 3:9 THAT IDENTIFIES ABRAHAM AS "THE BELIEVER." THE SIMPLICITY OF THE PHRASE STRUCK ME, SO I DECIDED TO SEE HOW ELSE ABRAHAM WAS IDENTIFIED IN SCRIPTURE. AMAZINGLY OF THE 230 TIMES THAT HIS NAME APPEARS IN GOD'S WORD I COULD FIND ONLY TWO OTHER IDENTIFYING TERMS FOR ABRAHAM.

IN HEBREWS 7:4 HE IS CALLED, "ABRAHAM, THE PATRIARCH." THAT'S PROBABLY HOW WE THINK OF HIM THE MOST. HE WAS THE FATHER OF THE JEWISH NATION AND THE FIRST TO BE TOLD OF THE PROMISED LAND. "THE PATRIARCH" IDENTIFIES HIM SOCIALLY AND COMMUNICATES HIS STATUS. FOR ME, SOMETHING LIKE "THE PASTOR" WOULD BE A SIMILAR NOMENCLATURE. FOR YOU IT MIGHT BE "THE TEACHER" OR "THE ENGINEER" OR "THE HOMEMAKER."

ELSEWHERE ABRAHAM IS CALLED "THE SON OF TERAH" (LUKE 3:34). THIS IDENTIFIES HIS ANCESTRY OR LINEAGE. IT'S GREAT TO KNOW YOUR FAMILY GENEALOGY. AFTER RETIREMENT, MY FATHER DID SIGNIFICANT WORK ON TRACING OUR FAMILY TREE BACK TO THE LATE 1600'S IN GERMANY WITH VERY FEW GAPS. SO, I'M CHARLES THE SON OF PAUL THE SON OF FRED ... AND SO ON. I'M SURE YOU KNOW YOUR FAMILY AS WELL.

BUT LET'S GET BACK TO THAT FIRST PHRASE I MENTIONED, "ABRAHAM THE BELIEVER." THIS IDENTIFIES HIM SPIRITUALLY. PAUL MAKES THE POINT IN GALATIANS THAT ABRAHAM HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH FAITH IN HIM ALONE. ROMANS 4:3 TELLS US THAT ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD AND IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ISN'T THIS WHAT REALLY MATTERS? IN FACT, DON'T OUR SOCIAL STATUS AND FAMILY BACKGROUNDS PALE SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN COMPARED TO OUR SPIRITUAL IDENTITY?

WHAT A JOY TO BE LIKE ABRAHAM AND BE KNOWN AS "THE BELIEVER." ARE YOU? IF SO, THEN THANK GOD FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF TRULY KNOWING WHO YOU ARE!

LOOKING UP!

**PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE**