



A Devotion from Daniel

A few months back one of my elders from our congregation in FL was in town to interview someone for my prior position and Lynda and I were able to spend a little bit of time with them catching up. I should start by asking you to be in prayer for our old Church who is still searching for a Youth & Family Minister. But while Bill was here, he asked me a question, he said “I have to ask you something” (and I got nervous). He said “I have asked every candidate we have interviewed one question and every one of them has given me the same answer and I couldn’t believe it. So, I want to ask you the same question. What is the biggest issue facing youth today.” My answer was simple *Identity Confusion*. He informed me that the six men they interviewed all gave the same exact answer, and he was really confused by this. You see from his vantage point identity was not something people were confused by.

As I have thought over this though, I have come to understand that identity confusion is not something new. It is not something that popped up in the last generation or two. It has been a part of the human experience since the fall. Now, in today’s generation, we see this confusion expressing itself in new and different ways. But today’s symptoms are not from some new illness that is ravaging our world. It’s the same old story, people have always sought to find out who they are, what is their purpose, where do they fit in, etc.

So, if this “phenomenon” of confusion is not new, we perhaps don’t need to come up with some slick new approach to restore the lost. Maybe the same cure we have always used to show someone who they are and whose they are is still the best medicine.

So “who are you”? One of my new favorite songs answers this question. The song is called *Who I Am* by Ben Fuller (hop over to YouTube when your done reading and check it out). The chorus of the song says this:

Who I am in the eyes of the Father

Who I am His love set free

Who I was I left at the altar

I am Yours Lord, I believe

Who are you? The better question is, who are you in the eyes of your creator? The answer, you are love that has been set free from sin.

Who were you? The answer, it doesn’t matter, that was all left behind at the altar when you declared Jesus as Lord.

Whose are you? The answer, you are His because you believe.

You are a Child of the most, high God and the most, high God is for you.

No matter how identity confusion expresses itself in this generation of any that may follow our answers don't need to change. We have the medicine. The question, will we be brave enough to administer it?

Want to hear more? Read Colossians 2:6-15



Message from Anthony

Song Stories: "Child of God" & "No Longer Slaves"

Here at Meadowbrook, we sing a lot of different songs in worship. Be it a classic hymn, a well-known contemporary chorus, or something that is lesser known, we sing a variety of songs that help us connect with the Father and worship Him fully. But why THESE songs in particular? Well, this series of articles answers those very questions as we explore some of the songs that make up our worship sets on Sunday morning.

New Year's Reflection

Well church, it is a New Year, filled with resolutions and hopeful excitement as many of us reflect on the year that has just passed and look forward to the one that is just beginning. With this evaluation, we often think of who we have been, who we are, and who we desire to be in the coming year. Hence the resolutions we make to "lose a little weight" or "get that promotion" or even to "spend more time with the ones we love" in an effort to start the new year off in the direction we envision will lead to our dreams and goals being fulfilled.

But, how many times do we stop to recognize who we already are? Why does our view of New Year's look more like a kid on Christmas who is anxious to receive more, or accomplish more, and less like a time of Thanksgiving, with gratitude to God for being with us through the past year, and comfort in knowing He is with us in the year to come?

Resolutions are a wonderful thing, and they encourage us to keep pressing on to become better versions of ourselves. But let's remember to be grateful for who He has already made us to be as we look ahead at 2023. He's redeemed us and given us back our identity as His children. We are loved, we are free, and we are wonderfully made as He intended.

The world is going to keep trying to convince us that we need "fixing" this year, and that we have to lose that weight, advance that career, or be super-mom or super-dad. But the world doesn't see us like our Father does. His desire for us this year is simply to worship Him with all that we are, share His love and Good News with all we meet, and know joy in all things that honor Him. The two songs we are going to learn/relearn in the coming months will encourage us to remember just that - amidst all the noise and struggle to become who we think we should be, God already knows who we are - we are not slaves to this world or its fears, we are His Children. Happy New Year!

"No Longer Slaves"

Verse 1

You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

Chorus

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear

I am a child of God

Verse 2

From my Mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins

Bridge

You split the sea so I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and sing
I am a child of God

CCLI Song # 7030123

Brian Johnson | Joel Case | Jonathan David Helser

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"Child Of God"

Verse 1

I want to hear You shout
With words so great and loud
Crashing and thunder
In Your mighty voice
But for all the noise
I've never heard You scream
I hear You most when You whisper to me
(You say)

Chorus 1

Child of God
Son whom I love
Come on home
Come and know
Your Father's heart

Verse 2

I want to feel love
But I'm filled with so much fear
I could never come to You
So Jesus met me here
And this open invitation
Was written for me
In Jesus' blood
Shed at Calvary
(It says)

Chorus 2

Child of God
Son whom I love
Come on home

Come and know
Your Father's heart
Lost one found
Hear me now
There's room for you
Broken and bruised
Child of God

Ending

There's room for you
Broken and bruised
Child of God
Doesn't matter what you've done
You're still loved
Child of God

CCLI Song # 7208124
Anthony C. Knotts
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1 John 3:1 (ESV)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.



SAVE THE DATE: Meadowbrook will be hosting a food packing event on Saturday, February 4th, 2023 from 8:00am-noon. The IDES organizers tell us that if we have at least 50 volunteers, we can pack the 15,000 meals in the time allocated that day. Please plan on attending and supporting this event.

KARAMOJA, UGANDA: Greetings and Thank you from Karamoja.

Dear brethren at Meadowbrook,

Happy New Year! I hope you are doing well, my family, my Missions team and I are all doing well. We thank God for the gracious gift of the New Year.

I received my Christmas gift and a wonderful Christmas message from you. I am very grateful for your commitment to continue partnering with us in the Kingdom work here in Uganda. On the behalf of my Missions team, I would like to let you know that we are exceedingly grateful and we cannot thank you enough. May this year e a year of Harvest in your church and families. God bless you abundantly.

Duncan

Meadowbrook Annual Soup Luncheon



Please join us Sunday, January 15th, immediately following our church service, for the Annual Soup Luncheon! It's a wonderful time of fellowship while enjoying many different kinds of soup on a cold winter day!

Please sign up by January 8 for either soup/chili or dessert. All soup and chili should be brought in a crockpot. Desserts and soup/chili can be dropped off in the kitchen prior to Service, and someone will be there to help you.



Sisters in Service Mission: *We exist to honor God by ministering to those who are in need and encouraging one another to the praise of His Glory.*

Sisters in Service will meet on SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, at 10am in the fellowship hall. We will have a brief meeting and then make bag lunches for a local homeless shelter. Please plan to join us for fellowship and an opportunity to serve those in need in our community!

For planning purposes, mark your calendars for our meetings on Saturday, February 25 and Saturday, March 25, both at 10am.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16



Young Adults – Save the Date

Email Daniel at daniel@mccrochesterhills.com for more information about upcoming meetings – Next meeting on 1/11/23.

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Birthdays

Ron Borton - January 4

Matt Cox – January 8

Linda Tingley – January 14

Lothar Rossol – January 17

Sydney Sweigard – January 18

Darrell Cox – January 19

Alec Alexander Cox – January 25

Cathy Podvin – January 28