

## HOW MANY ME'S ARE YOU?

Nearby, we have reprinted Pastor Ray Bentley's devotion "Who Are You?", and also my dad's (Gommel's) writing from 20+ years ago, "O My God! Who Is This Me?!?".

Pastor Ray's article might seem on the surface, at least, to answer Gommel's question to God, "Who is this me?!?", and it is an answer which can lead a questioning person to the right place in his/her own personal timeline. He becomes a restored child of God -- one who has faced how broken this world is, and how he/she is also broken (sinful), separated from our Creator, in need of restoration, and finding God's offer and path to reconciliation.

I confess that I ask Gommel's question quite a bit, and have wanted to ask you that question for a long time. Who is this You, really? Are you here for a few short years, confined to a decaying body, only to be set in a box -- uniquely created by God, who cares about you and even knows your name?

There are times when I feel like I'm standing off to the side, watching myself act like an a--, uh, a jerk. As Gommel asked, who is the Me in that case -- the jerk (ok, don't say it!), or the Me watching and judging the jerk?

As I get older, I watch my body age, and it's not too pleasant to see the wrinkles form, the hearing disappear, the knees and hips wearing out, among many other things. Did you catch that? I said, "I watch my body age. . ." So who

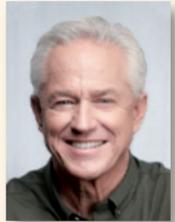
is the Me -- the one who watches the body age or am I simply that body in which I find myself? Am I the watcher or the watchee? Do you ever feel like you are trapped inside this bag of bones and you want out? Who put me in this body, anyway? Don't you sometimes wish you just step outside of it and be free? (Then the question would be, free to do what, or to be what?) Believe it or not, Gommel and I

used to talk about this now and then. We likened it to standing in front of the set of mirrors in a department store dressing room, where you can see your reflection extending almost to infinity, as the reflection of the reflection goes on and on.

Pastor Ray and Gommel both offer the simplest and best answer: we are children brought to life by God, created by Him in His image. That means, we were created with His values, His thoughts, loving what He loves and hating what He hates (evil!), but as Bentley says, thousands of years of sin, corruption, sorrow, and disease have broken us down into something barely recognizable.

If and when we take God's hand, let Him pull us out of this mess, and turn over our falls away along with this prison of a broken body, and the only ME that matters lives to eternity with our wonderful Father! Romans 7:14-25, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Romans 8:35-39

*Linda Gommel*



### Who Are You?

Ray Bentley  
Ministries

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us." — 1 John 3:1

Who are you? Do you wonder why you are here and what your life means?

A young man, college age, nervously checks his phone every time it buzzes or pings, while fiddling with the Bible on his lap. He sits in our church counseling office and says he's confused. About life...about his future...about God. "I just don't know who I really am," he admits.

A middle-aged man realizes that his life hasn't followed his dreams. He's feeling his age. He's tired of his job. His kids are growing up and growing distant. He questions everything from his marriage to his faith. He looks in the mirror and wonders who that person is and what his life is all about.

A busy woman, with a family, a job, and lists of commitments that keep her running and worn out, often stops in her rare quiet moments and wonders, "Is this who I am? Is this what I am meant to be doing?"

The human race suffers from a huge identity crisis! Most of us

don't realize who we are, and who we are meant to be.

We are God's creation, made in His image. Thousands of years of sin, corruption, sorrow, and disease may have broken us down into something barely recognizable to anyone who could have known Adam and Eve in their before-the-fall state. But we are still God's creation!

He sent His Son, Jesus, to restore us and to make us alive through His Spirit. He makes us "new creatures" and gives us a new identity. We may carry the outward marks of this world, but our souls and spirits are once again back in the garden with Him.

Through Him we are "renewed in the spirit" of our minds (Ephesians 4:23), we will never thirst (John 4:14), never perish (John 3:16), and we can know and experience the width, length, depth and height of the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:18-19).

Who are we?

We are children of God (John 1:12) and friends of God (John 15:14). We are servants of the Almighty, and heirs to all that He has to give us (Romans 8:17). God calls His people His "beloved" throughout Scripture.

"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine!" the Song of Solomon proclaims.

*Remember who you are. God's beloved.*

Our wireless doorbells sitting on their chargers . . .



**WE'RE NOT "EAT TOFU" SCARED YET.**



TOP ANALYSIS, MEMES, AND CARTOONS AT PATRIOTPOST.US

### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

- Dear Sneez: If you're going to happen, happen. Don't just put a stupid look on my face and then leave.
- Some people seem to have aged like fine wine. I aged like milk... I got sour and chunky.
- Facial recognition software can pick a person out of a crowd but the vending machine at work can't recognize a dollar bill with a bent corner.
- My train of thought derailed. There were no survivors.
- I never make the same mistake twice. I do it like , five or six times, you know, to make sure.
- If you see someone buying candy, popcorn and a soda at the movies, they must be a drug dealer. There's no other explana-

## O MY GOD! WHO IS THIS ME?!?

(Historically, perhaps, called "soul")

O MY GOD!

WHO IS THIS "ME" -- THIS "I" --?---

So intimately a part of this bag of bones I call my body, -- and yet somehow completely separate, having an existence of my own!

WHO IS THIS "I", THIS "ME",

oblivious to infinite time past, who suddenly appeared at this particular time and place, from the seed of human mother and father, -- like the billions of others, and yet the "I" and "me" unique -- one of a kind!

Yes, out of infinity of space and time I came.

That did not trouble me.

I guess I did not know.

Out of infinity of time and space I came to live -- to be aware of "me" -- of things, space and time -- to live for an instant in the forever of eternity!

O GOD, WHO IS THIS "ME"? --

pleased, troubled, victorious, defeated, believing, doubting -- unique! -- blind to the future, except for faith, hoping there is more to life than this bag of bones this painful struggle which somehow I love so much that I will do almost anything to survive!

O GOD! WHO IS THIS "ME" ---?

A unique, accidental blip pressed between infinite past and the forever future? --

Or a choice by You --

A child brought to life by You to live for You and for eternity in Your Kingdom, -- or to be indifferent, or to turn away -- or play games -- or rebel -- and die?

O GOD! WHO IS THIS "ME"??

Who is this "ME" writing this?

And who is this "ME" watching the "ME" writing this?

And who is the "ME" aware of all of this?

O God, I believe!

Help my unbelief!

Ernie Gommel

## LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

**MON. February 7, 5 PM. at the Moose Lodge**  
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

**From our County, State and Fed. representatives:**

- Reports from the Sheriff Department and CHP
- How is the Abatement ordinance working?
- Code Enforcement activity - what's happening at the County, State and Federal levels.

**• Bills submitted to the legislature re: illegal marijuana grows.**

- Mojave Water Agency's involvement in cannabis water use, etc.
- Status of MET team's busts in Lucerne Valley.
- Final redistricting information affecting our federal and state representatives.



Land Use Services  
Code Enforcement



San Bernardino County Code Enforcement and Solid Waste Management Divisions will be providing bulky trash collection containers for the **FREE disposal of accumulated trash, e-waste, and tires.**

► **This program is limited to the residents of the unincorporated County area.**

► We cannot accept commercial or industrial waste from businesses. Please remember to safely secure and properly cover your loads prior to traveling to the event. If you are bringing waste tires, please limit your load to a **maximum of 9 tires**. Tires on rims **WILL** be accepted.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have oversized, loose, or hard-to-handle loads, you may be turned away to dispose of your waste materials at your own expense.

**WE WILL ACCEPT** household trash, bulky items green waste and vehicle tires, (we do not accept concrete).

**The Urban Accordion Corps** will be present to accept electronics (TV's, COMPUTER MONITORS, VCR's, STEREOS, CELL PHONES, MICROWAVES & MORE)

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT HAZARDOUS WASTE.** This includes motor oil and oil filters, antifreeze, gasoline, drain cleaner, pesticides, fertilizers, fluorescent lights, wood preservatives, pool and hobby supplies, auto/furniture polish, paint thinners, paint products, medications or similar products.

For current information, locations and times for the disposal of **Household Hazardous Waste**, please call the Household Hazardous Waste Program: 1-800-OILY-CAT (1-800-645-9228)

**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO UNLOAD YOUR OWN WASTE MATERIALS**

**LUCERNE VALLEY**

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 5, 2022  
8:00 am-12:00 noon

**WHERE:** Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware  
32946 CA-18, Lucerne Valley 92356