



YOU WERE MADE FOR MORE

INTRODUCTION

God created you to simply be you, not anyone else on the planet (or in all of creation). Unfortunately we all seem to think we need to be someone else in order to truly grow into who we think God wants us to be...but only GOD knows who he wants us to be.

DISCUSSION

Why do you think people are trying so hard to be anyone but themselves?

EXPLANATION

Who is the YOU that you have pretended to be in the past?

Who is the YOU that you think you should be?

What does that YOU look like, act like, and speak like?

Who is the YOU that you think other people want you to be?

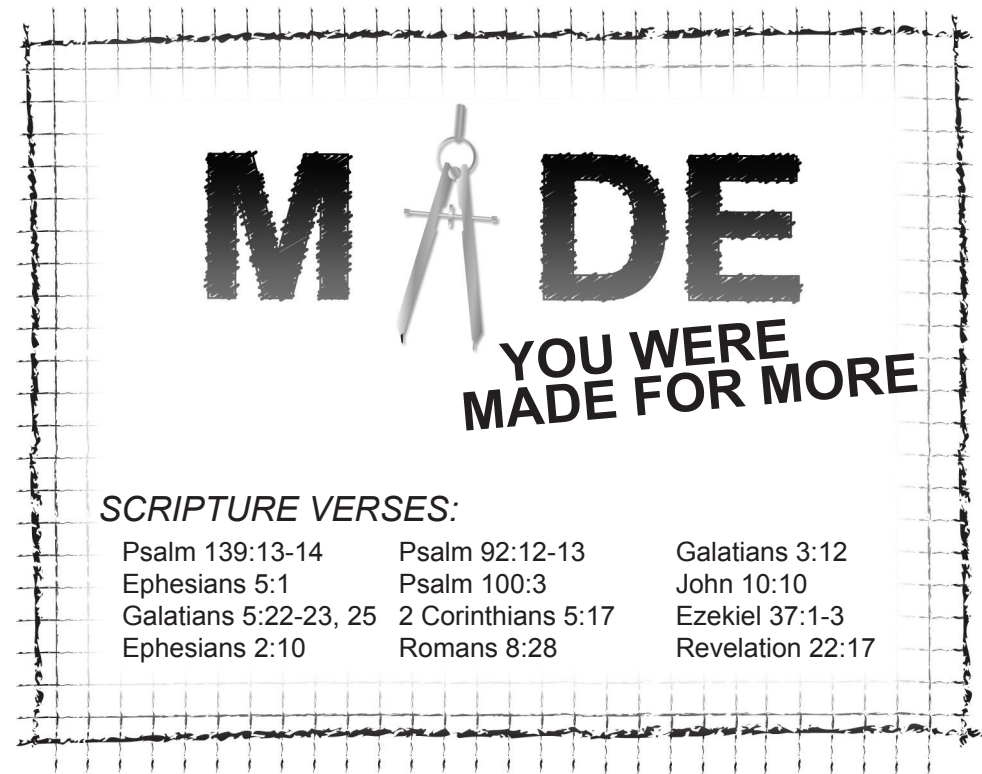
APPLICATION

Who is the YOU that you are afraid that God wants you to be?

Who is the YOU that God really wants you to be?

Why is it so hard to trust God for everything?

Why do we so often think we know how to do it better than He does?



WEEK 1 NOTES

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***Psalm 139:13 “For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”***

If someone says to us, “Trust God even when we don’t understand because HE KNOWS what He is doing,” most who are believers will nod their heads and say, “Yes, I understand.” But deep inside our hearts there resides a place that does NOT understand. ***Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*** Because of the struggles we all face in our lives, if we are honest, we may even ask if God has a different definition of “wonderfully made” than we do.

Many of our struggles and temptations are not wonderful, yet they seem like part of who we are. Yes, we have a great God; yes, our great God loves us; yes, our God is concerned for His glory (which when we are concerned for His glory brings us joy); but why do we struggle so hard with the way God had made us?

The most important thing in life is Jesus. The second most important thing is who He wants you to become (and becoming that person will never happen as long as your focus is you). God made you to flourish, but flourishing will never take place when your focus is you. In the least humanistic way I can say this: God is more concerned with you reaching your “full potential” than you could ever be.

Eph 2:10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. You are not YOUR workmanship; you are God’s workmanship. Your life is not YOUR project; it is God’s project. God thought YOU up. He knows what you were intended to be. He has GOOD WORKS for you, and these things lead to greater glory for God and you becoming your true self.

When you follow Christ and embrace whom he made you to be, you don’t just become holier, you also become you-ier. Paul calls us new creations in Christ (2 Cor 5:17 ***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!***) It doesn’t mean completely different...it means made fresh, unprecedented, unheard of...all that you were to be, you can now truly be, because you are NEW. God wants to redeem you, not exchange you.

The YOU’s that you are:

- **The YOU you pretend to be:**

When your life is over, God will not look at you and say why weren’t you a better Moses, David, Aaron, Esther...God will confront you on why you weren’t you. If you are simply YOU then you no longer need to convince people you are anything BUT YOU.

- **The YOU you think you should be**

We all get this idea in our heads of something we think we should be that is the exact opposite of what we are (or what GOD made you to be). Henry Nouwen once wrote, “Spiritual Greatness has nothing to do with being greater than others.”

- **The YOU other people want you to be**

Everyone in your life will want you to change. If you live trying to be what everyone else wants and not what Jesus wants, you will never be free. Seeking to please EVERYONE is a shallow way to live (and even JESUS disappointed people who stood in the way of what God was doing).

- **The YOU that you are afraid God wants you to be**

Following the rules does not mean you are following Jesus. Full life is achieved by following Jesus, not some made up drill sergeant that someone tried to convince you is Jesus.

- **The YOU that fails to be you**

God created you to come alive.

- **The YOU that you were meant to be**

God has a you that you are supposed to be and your flourishing will never be about you. God creates you to flourish so you can be part of his redemptive work with him, but we thrive with that work. With God your next steps are always possible...

