

Whose Life is it Anyway?

“Whose life is it, anyway?” I’ve heard that question for most of my life, usually used as a challenge to mean, “You can’t tell me what to do!” For the most part, I agree, we cannot tell other adults what to do. We can educate them, help them see the light, show the where various chosen paths will lead, but God gave each of us a free will and nothing takes that away. Sharing wisdom is an excellent part of loving others, but we cannot and should not try to force others to take our advice.

That said, our first order of recognition is the *actual* answer to the question, “Whose life is it anyway?” Truthfully, for the Christian,

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body. - 1 Cor. 6:19, 20 NASB

The purchase transaction is even clearer in 1 Peter,

If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

God bought us back with something more precious than gold, the blood of Christ! Another thing it tells us is that He loves us more than humans can comprehend! God bought you back, redeemed you, from the claws of the devil simply because He loves you!

Back to the question, “Whose life is it, anyway?” It’s His, God’s, because He bought you.

Some don’t like it. Many try to ignore it, even after their conversion, but truth is truth. I belong to Him, and you do too. Frankly, I am ecstatically glad that I do. He loves me, He guides me, He leads me to the springs of life’s joys (Psalm 23). Like a deer who pants for the water brook, we need to learn to look to Him for life, for wisdom, for guidance. Our best course of action is to rejoice with a deep smile when we consider, “Whose life is it anyway?” and rejoice at the answer, “I belong to Him.”

So many are so horribly deceived into thinking that following Jesus steals our joy. “I can’t be happy without my Sunday morning fishing trips with my buddies!” In actuality, following “in His steps,” (1 Peter 2:21) is life’s best road to joy!

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. - John 15:11

You see, He owns me, and when I follow my owner, He gives me the gift of unspeakable joy that can come from nowhere else. We belong to Him. He has our best interests in mind, He can see the future. He can lead if we will follow. The cross-shaped hole in every heart can be filled by none other than the one who bought us with His blood. Who does your life belong to? Him!

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