



# Ko Wai Au?



Who are you?

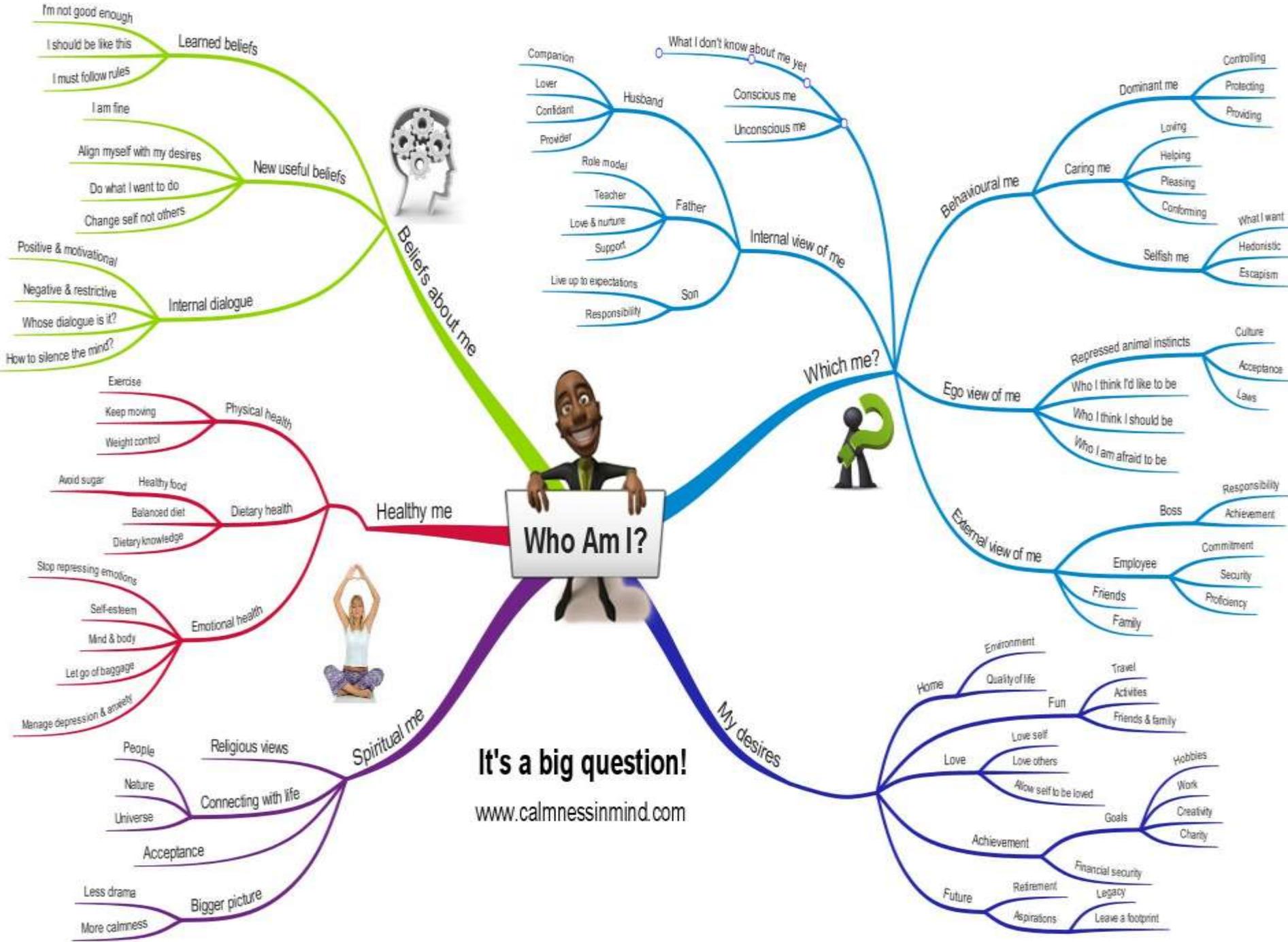
Ephesians 2:10



# I don't know who I am!

- Have you heard people say...
- “He has gone off to find himself”
- By being in this relationship I no longer know who I am.
- I need to be true to who “I am”.

The question “who am I?” seems to have become a very important quest to some people.



**It's a big question!**

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**WHICH  
MUPPET  
ARE YOU?**

# It is an important question

*I wonder, is it, that as people have turned away from God and the security of an identity in which “you are his workmanship created in Christ”, that the resulting void has left individuals floundering to know where they fit and how they should define themselves?*

*The question also affects Christians.*

# Options for defining ourselves

- Gender
- Colour
- Temperament type
- Role in family
- Role at school
- Financial Status
- What others said
- Your tribe
- Denomination
- Job, achievements
- Ethnic affiliation
- Sexual Orientation
- Skills and abilities.
- Sinner/saint
- Lack of characteristics
- Illnesses

# A Problem of definition

- The label created not only helps us determine who we are, but who we are not – who we fit in with, and who we do not.
- The label forces us to begin looking for evidence to legitimize the diagnosis.
  - Eg the problem child
  - Self Sabotage
- Emotional determinism – because I feel a certain way I must act a certain way.



Once you get labelled, people expect you to behave within the very narrow confines of that label.

— *Jo Brand* —

AZ QUOTES

# Labelling theory

- Frank Tannenbaum, “the way out is through a refusal to dramatize the evil”,
- Edwin Lemert questioned the idea that  
    "I do these things because I am this way."

# Caution in “labelling” others

- Our definition of “Others” allows us to think things and do things to them based on the way we value those things.
- This can be both positive and negative. For example
  - Geek
  - Criminal
  - Black



# Caution – a recent example

- The horrific murder of Renee Duckmanton.
- In early news reports she was defined by her work
- A protest was made about this
- Her father spoke out about her being a loved daughter going off the rails at Christmas
- RNZ and TV1 redefined how they reported her whereas the NZHerald did not change.

Careful because words are powerful

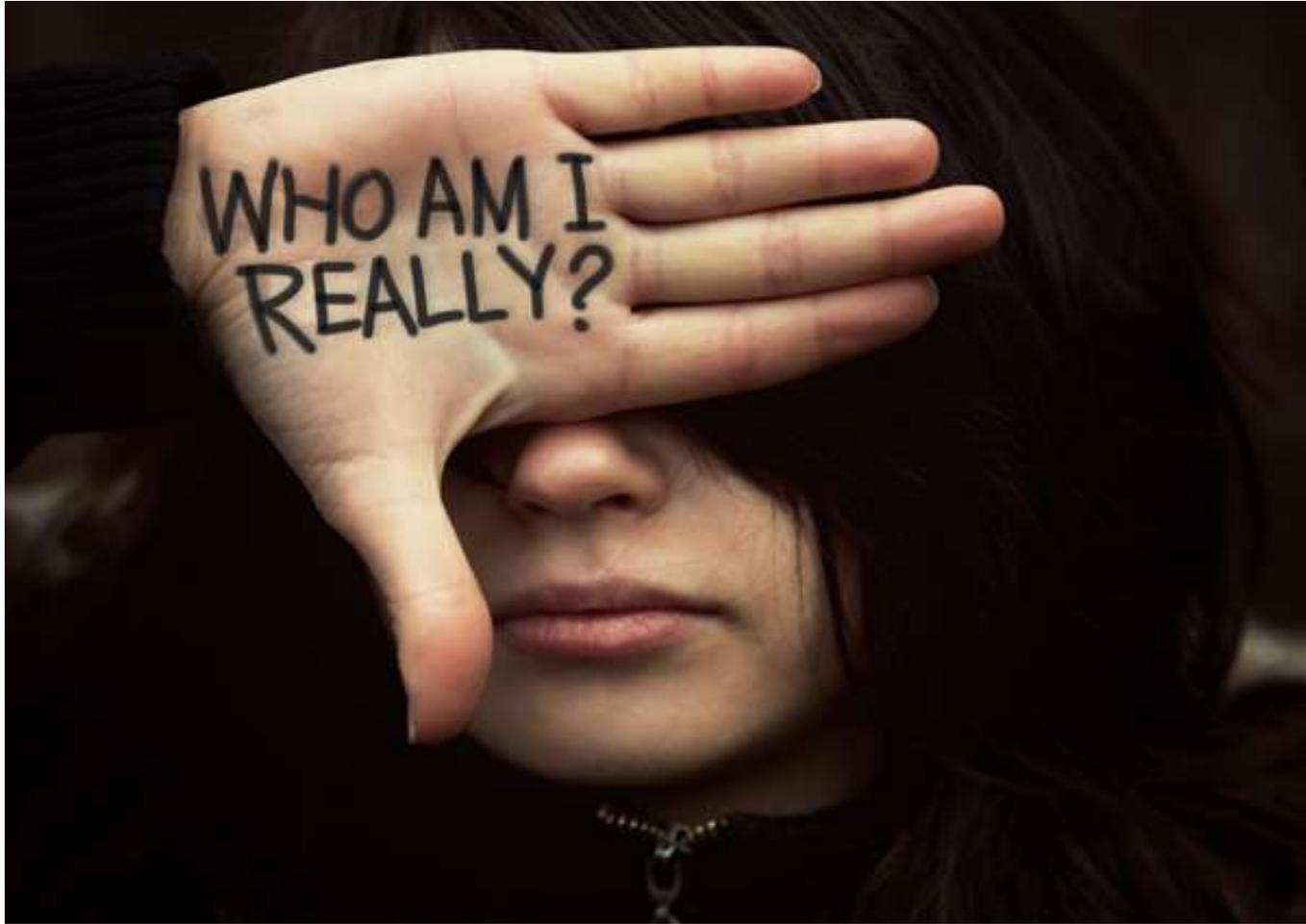
**You don't need to  
tell me I'm worthless**

**Trust me.**

**I already know.**

# Further evidence

- The Stanford Prison Experiment – internal values compromised by a new external definition of the self
- The documented change in attitude of those placed in positions of authority within the military,



# Looking for a better definition

- The Good news of the Gospel is that we find out who we are, by being joined with Christ
- Galatians 2:20
  - “It is no longer I who live  
but Christ that lives in me”
- In Him is the complete understanding of our unique, important and legitimate selves.
- In Him we find the Life we are looking for.

# A choice on which to build



# A definition to build your life on.

Matthew 7:24-27

## Who you are in Christ

- I am made in the image of God. Genesis 1:26,27
- I am loved. 1 John 3:3, Ephesians 2:4
- I am accepted. Ephesians 1:6
- I am a child of God. John 1:12
- I am Jesus' friend. John 15:14
- I am a joint heir with Jesus, sharing His inheritance with Him. Romans 8:17
- I am united with God and one spirit with Him. 1 Corinthians 6:17
- I am a temple of God. His Spirit and his life lives in me. 1 Corinthians 6:19

# A definition to build your life on.

Matthew 7:24-27

## Who you are in Christ

- **I have an important place in Christ's body. 1 Cor 12:27**
- I am a Saint. Ephesians 1:1
- **I am redeemed and forgiven. Colossians 1:14**
- I am complete in Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:10
- I am free from condemnation. Romans 8:1
- I am a new creation because I am in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. Colossians 3:12**
- I am established, anointed, and sealed by God. 2 Corinthians 1:21
- I do not have a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

# A definition to build your life on.

Matthew 7:24-27

## Who you are in Christ

- **I am God's co-worker. 2 Corinthians 6:1**
- I am seated in heavenly places with Christ. Eph 2:6
- I have direct access to God Ephesians. 2:18
- I am chosen to bear fruit John. 15:16
- I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5
- **I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God by which I share His nature. 2 Peter 1:4**
- I can always know the presence of God because He never leaves me Hebrews. 13:5
- God works in me to help me do the things He wants me to do Philippians 2:13

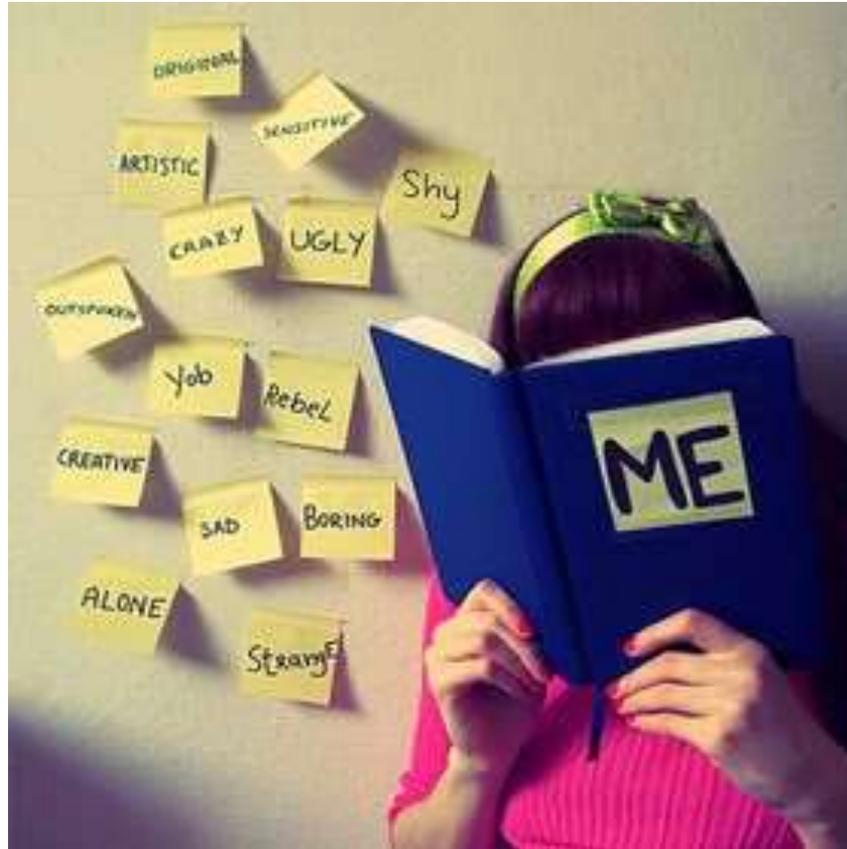
# Once not a people but now... – 1 Peter 2:10

- No Jew, No Gentile – Gal 3:28
- In Christ you have been brought near – Eph 2:13
- For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light - Eph 5:8
- Grafted into the true vine – Romans 11:17
- For as in Adam all die, so in Christ **all** will be made alive. 1 Cor 15:22

# So what about those other things?

- Our Gender, feelings, work, roles etc *inform* how we *may* fulfil our unique role in the world and in Gods Family,
- It is worth discovering these unique identifiers but also submitting them to the Lord Jesus Christ and recognising that somethings may change over time, but Christ will never change and your place in him is secure

# So who am I?



A child of God