

You are Unique

We all have unique identifications. Your fingerprints are different from anyone else. Your eyes can identify you through Iris Recognition. In fact, the March issue of The American Journal of Human Genetics published a study conducted by scientists at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, plus universities in Sweden and the Netherlands. Ten pairs of identical twins were studied, including nine pairs with one twin showing signs of dementia or Parkinson's disease, while the other did not. According to Jan Sumanski, a professor at UAB and author of the study, they expected only epigenetics (don't ask) would differ greatly between twins. But they found changes on the genetic level, the DNA sequence itself. Bottom line: Identical twins apparently do not have identical DNA. You're unique.

We are all created as individuals. God has chosen us and given us our unique identity. But we all have a common purpose. We are to live each day for Him. We are all asked to be stewards. Stewardship is what we do after saying, "Believe." Faith lives in our actions. What we do is a response to God's love for us.

There is a story of a young boy who worked all winter making a model boat. In spring he was excited to sail the boat, but once the wind caught the sails, he realized his boat was sailing off and he would not be able to retrieve it. Later that summer he saw the boat in the window of a shop in town. He needed to raise the money to buy the boat from the shop owner. When he was able to get the boat, he said, "Now you are twice mine, first I made you and now I paid for you."

That is just like us. Psalm 139:13 reminds us that He knit us together in our mother's womb. And Jesus bought us from the grasp of Satan by dying on the cross, defeating death and rising from the grave. We have a new identity through Jesus. We are God's own children.

Stewardship begins in gratitude for what He did for us. All that we have is a Gift. Our time, our talents and treasures are all from Him. We don't volunteer, sing in the choir or support ministry because we have to. We do it as an act of worship; praise for all the gifts that He has given us.

As you look forward to the time you receive the best Gift, life in Heaven, what are you planning to do with the earthly gifts that will be left behind? You are the steward, the caretaker of those gifts. Are you planning to leave a portion to family? Have you considered including a final tithe, 10%, as a last thanksgiving to help insure that the saving message of Grace is shared for generations to come? It's really all His! We are just returning a portion of the Gifts He has given to us. Do it today. Call CEF to assist you in putting your Estate/Gifting Plan in place.

Bill Burmeister
Church Extension Fund . Michigan District
800-242-3944 ♦ bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org

