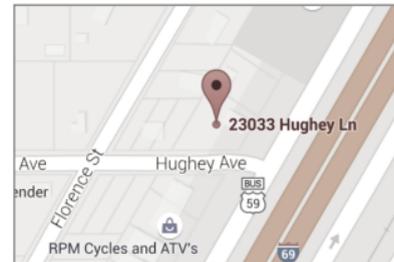


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR



WEBSITE

PurposedGrace.org

ADDRESS

23033 Hughey Avenue
New Caney, Texas 77357

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Wednesday Worship 7:00 PM

PHONE

(832) 543 5333



*‘Saint Me’
&
‘Real Me’*

—JOE TERRELL

This past week I was listening to the story of a pastor whose pursuit of sin had driven him from ministry and into scandal. He said:

“I don’t believe I ever met Jesus until I stepped out of my church persona and became just another broken, desperate man. That’s when He really became real to me.”

Each of us has two versions of our selves: ‘*Saint Me*’ and ‘*Real Me*’. We put on ‘*Saint Me*’ whenever we are around other church members and whenever we have an especially important request

to make in prayer. We learn the phrases, the attitudes and the actions that are expected by others. What’s more, we come to think that God is especially pleased with ‘*Saint Me*’, and that if we ever were to be ‘*Real Me*’, His love and blessing would diminish.

But God did not love ‘*Saint Me*’ with an everlasting love. He knows ‘*Saint Me*’ isn’t even real. God despises ‘*Saint Me*’, for ‘*Saint Me*’ does not glorify the grace of God. ‘*Saint Me*’ is too busy thanking God he is not like ‘*Real Me*’. ‘*Saint Me*’ never

enters God’s rest because he is too busy working.

But God chose ‘*Real Me*’; Christ died for ‘*Real Me*’; the Holy Spirit called ‘*Real Me*’ and is presently preserving ‘*Real Me*’. All these things were done for the real, broken, desperate Me. God does not love what ‘*Real Me*’ is, but He loves ‘*Real Me*’ as he is.

It seems to me that growing in grace has something to do with recognizing ‘*Saint Me*’ for the wretch that he is, and embracing the truth that God loves ‘*Real Me*’ in CHRIST.

Is this not what the Lord was saying to the Laodiceans:

You say, *‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;’* But you do not realize that you are *wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.* (REVELATION 3:17)

The sooner we go from ‘*Saint*’ to ‘*Real*’ the sooner we enter the glorious liberty of the Sons of God.

—JOE TERRELL