

## Lesson # 3 - The Priorities Regarding the Person of the Believer.

### Introduction

- A. We are reminding ourselves, in these lessons, of the importance of correct priorities.
- B. When we follow the Biblical exhortations, and establish Scriptural priorities, these then serve as blueprints, and insure our success.
- C. Christianity has been designed by God so that His people may be successful in their daily life..
  - 1. We must, however, know and practice the truth, if we are to be free people and be blessed by God. John 8:32; II Peter 1:3-9
  - 2. Any failure in the practice of faith, love and hope will bring serious limitation into our lives.
- D. A very important group of priorities, in the Bible, has to do with the believer's understanding of himself.
  - 1. It is very difficult to succeed in any area of life if we have the wrong self-image.
  - 2. We have been called to respond to God and His Word. The person who devalues himself and practices inferiority will have serious problems making this response.
- E. The believer is precious to God, Isaiah 43:4  
Since thou wast precious in My sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee  
. . . . .

### I. Exposition: The Basis for the Believer's Self-Worth.

- A. The Believer's Creation.
  - 1. We were created in God's image, as persons, with abilities related to knowledge, righteousness and holiness. Gen. 1:26,27; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10
  - 2. We were created in a relationship with God which involved love, fellowship, truth, holiness, purpose and responsibility. Gen. 1:28-3:8
  - 3. All of this indicates the believer's worth, importance, potentiality, and value as a person.
  - 4. Sin has tragically marred and perverted all of this.

B. The Believer's Re-creation.

1. In the new birth we are re-created by God according to the pattern of our former creation. John 1:12,13; 3:3-6; II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10; I Peter 1:1-5; Rev. 1:5,6
2. This simply means that the potentiality of our former creation relationship, can now be translated into actuality. We are redeemed people.
3. It is vitally important that we accept and practice the Biblical fact of our redemption. Isaiah 43:1-7.

C. The Believer's Description.

1. We are God's inheritance. Deut. 4:20; Eph. 1:18,19

But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day. Deut. 4:20

2. We are God's Saints. Rom. 1:7; I Cor. 1:2

To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called (to be) saints . . . .

3. We are God's Beloved. Romans 1:7; Col. 3:12

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved . . . .  
Col. 3:12

4. We are God's temple. I Cor. 6:15,20; II Cor. 6:16

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?  
I Cor. 6:19

5. We are God's flock. Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28

6. We are God's church. Acts 20:28; I Cor. 11:22

... Or despise you the church of God . . . .? I Cor. 11:22

7. We are God's bride. II Cor. 11:2; Rev. 21:2,9

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Rev. 21:2

D. The Believer's Abilities.

1. We are the salt of the earth. Matthew 5:13

Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men.

2. We are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

3. We are God's ambassadors. II Corinthians 5:18-20

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

4. We are God's prophets. Philippians 2:12-16

Holding forth the Word of Life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

5. We are God's priests. I Peter 2:5,9

Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6. We are God's scattered strangers. I Peter 1:1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

7. We are God's servants. Ephesians 6:6

Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Observation:

1. The spiritual implications of these passages are exceedingly clear. We are important and valuable to God.
2. We have no right thinking of ourselves as inferior, as worthless, as without value. We have been redeemed and given divine enablement to honor and glorify God.
3. This is in no way to deny the reality and effect of sin in our lives. My emphasis here is to point out that we will never be able to live the Christian life and serve God as long as we fail to accept the Word of God as our authority and live that way.

II. Explanation: Problems Related, to Self-Worth.

- A. The failure to accept forgiveness and to forgive ourselves.  
Isaiah 43:25; I John 1:9

I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Is. 43:29

- B. The practice of some sin of commission or omission. II Cor. 6:14-7:1 I John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. I John 1:9

- C. The acceptance of devaluation from others. Job 2:9,10; Jer. 26:7-9

Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh . . . . Job 2:9,10

- D. The acceptance of emotional change as authoritative. Rom. 4:18; II Corinthians 10:12

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves, but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. II Cor. 10:12

- E. The failure to share our love and truth, John 13:34,35; Gal. 6:2

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:34,35

- F. The failure to fellowship with God and use our gifts for His glory.  
I Corinthians 1:9; 12:18

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.  
I Cor. 12:16

III. Application: How to Practice the Truth Regarding Self-Worth.

- A. Deal with the past truthfully. (See page 15)

- B. Assume responsibility for living truthfully.

1. Obey God in regard to Bible reading and prayer.
2. Obey God in regard to sin and holiness.
3. Obey God in regard to serving Him and accepting your place in life.

C. Choose by faith, independence on God, to believe the Bible in regard to your self-worth and live in harmony with the Script lire.

1. Do not practice your emotions.

2. Daily affirm that you are a redeemed person and important to God.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I reject my feelings of inferiority and declare that I am God's inheritance, God's saint, God's beloved . . . .

3. Practice your Biblical self-worth by praying and serving God.

Reconcile The Past

The Bible exhorts the believer to live according to the truth. When we fail to do so we suffer spiritual loss. How we live our daily lives makes a difference. Spiritual failure will cause repercussions in other areas of life - emotional, mental and physical.

It is often extremely helpful to go back into one's life and deal with the past on the basis of the truth. When we do so we are seeking to honor God and obey His Word. The following suggestions should be carefully followed.

Ask the Lord to turn His searchlight on you and on your past. Trust Him to bring all those times to your remembrance that you need to reconcile. Make an affirmation that you will be honest.

1. Start with your earliest memories as a child. Write out (reject the temptation to just think about it, or talk it out) every time you sinned or were hurt. Be complete, name the people involved, state what happened, be truthful and honest, do not protect yourself or other people, do not fantasize.
2. Evaluate the past event on the basis of the truth. If you sinned then confess it to God truthfully and receive His forgiveness and cleansing (I John 1:9). If you were hurt by someone, and it was their fault, then state " . . . they should not have done that to me." When you have finished writing out the event then stop and completely forgive the person (Mark 11:25,26). If you were at fault in some way then confess that to God.
3. Resist the temptation to hurry with this. Do not generalize by putting many events into one. Be specific. This is not introspection, so do not indulge in self-pity, criticism, or do this as a martyr.
4. When you have finished with each event and have confessed and/or have forgiven the person, then carefully do two things.
  - a. Make an affirmation that Satan may no longer use what you have written out against you. State the following: "In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take this event away from Satan and declare that He may not use it against me anymore" (Eph. 4:27; 5:11).
  - b. Choose to receive the healing the Lord Jesus died to provide for those who believe in Him and seek the live according to His Word (Isaiah 53:5) State the following: "Now that I have made this right with You, Heavenly Father, I receive the healing You have provided for me."
5. When you have finished your work (do not overlook the grudges you may have against God) then count it finished. When you think of a bad event in your past, then state: "I have dealt with that truthfully and it is settled!"
6. When you sin today - confess, forgive, make the affirmation.

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