

The Christian and His Self-Worth

Introduction

- A. We know from the Bible, as well as from science, the power of truth and error.
- B. One of the more important truths that we must know, if we are to be successful Christians – is to understand the truth about ourselves.
- C. Many of our problems, failures, and sins are largely due to our misunderstanding of the kind of a person we are. One profound result of this is our lack of self-worth. We have accepted serious errors about our worth and these limit us.
- D. We cannot solve this problem by comparing ourselves with one another nor by attempting to generate good feelings about ourselves. Only through accepting what the Bible says and responding by faith can we be helped.

I. The Christian Has Been Created in the Image and Likeness of God.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him male and female created he them. Gen. 1:16,17

Comment: We must begin with our creation because only here can we begin to understand ourselves. Since God is a Person of infinite perfection – to be created in His image means we are persons – of great potential and value.

To be a person means not only self-consciousness but self-determination. We have the ability to make profound far-reaching decisions. As a person we have many rights: to know, to be heard, to feel, to have an opinion, to be honored, to develop potential, to assume responsibility, to enjoy life. God treats us as persons. We may not treat ourselves as less.

The term "spiritual" would designate the kind of a person we are. We are not basically body, mind, emotion, or will. God created us to know Him, to understand spiritual truth, and perform spiritual functions. We are by creation a sacred person. We commit a profound sin when we do not develop our potential and live as though life and fulfillment were sensual.

Once we accept error about ourselves, and we all have due to the Fall, then we almost always will use that error to interpret (misinterpret) the events, relationships, and opportunities of life – as well as our own functions. Without realizing it we bring confusion and failure into many if not all the areas of our life.

One of the clearest evidences that we do not know, accept, and practice the Biblical truth of our self-worth is seen in our response to the Word of God. Too often we read the promises and say, "I can't be like that." Or we read the commandments and say, "I can't do that." When we live with such unbelief and error in our life the result is often that of confusion, discouragement, and criticism.

II. The Christian Has Been and Is Loved by God.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you, continue ye in my love.
John 15:9

. . . That the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them,
as thou as loved me. John 17:23

Comment: To be loved by God means that He recognizes us as persons, Gives us
our rightful place in His life, and will do what is right by us, in
seeking our good, even though it involves suffering. We must accept
this truth.

III. The Christian Has Been Called to Live in Fellowship with God.

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son
Jesus Christ our Lord. I Cor. 1:9.

Comment: No greater honor could be bestowed upon us than to be invited to
fellowship with God. As we do the door is open so He can minister
to us and lead us into the knowledge and practice of His will.

IV. The Christian Has Been Given Divine Revelation.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the
fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.
Hebrews 1:1-3

Comment: Divine revelation is the greatest possession that one could ever
receive There is nothing more powerful than the truth about God and
His plan for our daily life. What profound sin we commit when we
neglect and disobey the Word of God.

V. The Christian Has Been Made the Object of Divine Redemption.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall
be saved from wrath through him. Rom, 5:8,9

Comment: The great evidence of divine love and our worth - is seen in redemp-
tion The Christian can say with Paul, "... I live by the faith of
the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20

VI. The Christian Has Been Made the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

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? For ye are bought with a
price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
I Cor. 6:19,20

Comment: We have all read of the Old Testament tabernacle and tried to imagine
what it meant when it was filled with the glory of God. Today, every
believer is God's temple. He wants to manifest Himself to us and then
through us.

Conclusion: The only way we will know true self-worth is to accept what the
Bible says about us and respond by faith and love to its message.