



Lecture 1

The Believer's Worth in Christ

Jesus has given us believers His WORTH at the Cross: He calls us sons and daughters, His beloved, His sheep, His temple. As believers in Christ, **our worth is found in Him**: we are His righteousness and co-heirs with Jesus. For a Christian to have low self-worth is to deny everything Jesus has given us. We need to receive THE TRUTH in our minds and souls and renew our minds in order to live according to our true identity in Christ.

2 Corinthians 12:9

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me".

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you".

Titus 2:13

"Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus"

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES AND PREREQUISITES FOR DEVELOPING WORTH IN CHRIST ARE:

1. TO ENABLE US TO LOOK AT LIFE FROM GOD'S POINT OF VIEW -TO SEE OURSELVES AS GOD SEES US.

Colossians 3:1-2

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth".

2. TO DEVELOP A BELIEF SYSTEM THAT IS BASED UPON THE VALUE GOD HAS GIVEN US, RATHER THAN THE VALUE OTHERS PLACE ON US.

Romans 12:3

"For I am saying through the grace which is given me, to everyone who is among you, not to be thinking more highly of himself, above that which the necessities in the nature of the case impose upon him to be thinking, but to be thinking with a view to a sensible appraisal of himself according as to each one God divided a measure of faith".

3. TO GAIN A CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE

Proverbs 3:26

"For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught".

4. TO EXPERIENCE GOD DEVELOPING OUR LIFE MESSAGE:

Our life message is a unique message God gives to each one of us to share with others: not only the new victories over previous defeats and lows in our lives; but also the lessons He is teaching us in our present walk with the Lord and the insights we gain from personal study of God's Word.

2 Corinthians 1:3-8

“Eulogized be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassionate mercies and a God of every consolation and encouragement, who consoles and encourages us in our every affliction and tribulation in order that we may be able to console and encourage those who are in any affliction or tribulation by means of the consolation and encouragement with which we ourselves are being consoled and encouraged by God. Because even as the sufferings of Christ [for righteousness' sake endured in the opposition of sinners to His ministry on earth] overflow to us, thus our consolation and encouragement [given to others] overflow through Christ. And if we are being hard pressed by reason of affliction, it is for the sake of your consolation, encouragement, deliverance, and preservation. If we are being consoled and encouraged, it is for the sake of your consolation and encouragement, which consolation and encouragement are operative in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we are also suffering. And our hope for you is unshaken and constant, knowing that as you are joint-participants of the sufferings, thus also you shall be of the consolation and encouragement. For we do not desire you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were weighed down beyond our power so that we despaired even of living”.

5. TO OVERCOME BITTERNESS TOWARD GOD.

If you are resentful of the way God has made you, it becomes easy to doubt God's personal interest in your life. Oftentimes this root problem causes us to transfer resentment to others, such as blaming parents for physical deformities or the way they have brought you up, etc.

Matthew 19:19

“be setting a correct evaluation upon your father and mother and be treating them with the reverence and love which is their due; and, you shall love with a divine and self-sacrificial love your neighbour in the same manner as yourself”

Romans 9:20, 21

“O man, nay, surely, as for you, who are you who contradicts God? The mouldable material shall not say to the one who moulds it, why did you make me thus, shall it? Or, does not the potter possess authority over the clay, out of the same lump to make, on the one hand, an instrument which is for honourable purposes and, on the other hand, one which is for dishonourable uses?”

Ephesians 2:10

“for we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus with a view to good works which God prepared beforehand in order that within their sphere we may order our behaviour”.

6. TO EMBRACE GOD’S LOVE AND OUR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST

1 John 4:17

“In this has been brought to completion the aforementioned love which is in us [produced by the Holy Spirit], which love exists in its completed state, resulting in our having unreservedness of speech at the day of the judgment (*of our works for rewards*), because just as that One is, also, as for us, we are in this world”.

7. TO HONOUR JESUS BY NOT ALLOWING THE FLESH TO RULE US

A poor self-image is the fruit of a believer who is not cooperating with the Holy Spirit and is relying on self. This believer will seek distorted ways to compensate for their lack of spirituality. This will lead the believer to try to “balance out” the sense of inferiority with defence mechanisms.

The confusion created due to not living according to the Word, brings doubt and unbelief.