



Lecture 2

A Believer's Worth in Christ

You Are A New Creation!

2 Corinthians 5:17, Wuest translation

“So that, assuming that anyone is in Christ, he is a creation new in quality. The antiquated, out-of-date things [which do not belong to the new life in Christ Jesus] have passed away. Behold, all things have become new in quality”.

In order to experience the true worth we now have as believers, through our identity in Christ, it is crucial that we **know** and **receive** this “new creation” message. Failing to embrace this reality will limit us to the natural world and to self, i.e. self-worth and self-effort. This will prevent us from experiencing the “abundant life” Jesus provided for us at the Cross. To truly **know** our worth experientially, we need to first acknowledge that we are **in Christ**.

A believer who doesn't understand and walk in the incredible worth they now possess, as a new creation in Christ, will battle with insecurity, fear, shame and guilt (etc). As a result, they will feel the need to hide certain parts of their personality from others and will also develop ways of compensating.

The chart, “REPERCUSSIONS OF A POOR SELF-IMAGE,” on the following page depicts some of these dynamics. Instead of seeking God for His answers, the believer with a distorted image will rely on their own “expertise” and ability. As a result, the distorted soul becomes more distorted: trying to fix one problem while creating another. **We need to remember that every problem has a spiritual source:** the natural always depends on - and is determined by - the supernatural; the visible depends on the invisible (Hebrews 11:3). Seeking the spiritual, through God's Word and His Holy Spirit, will therefore give us the answers to every problem and also the keys to receiving God's promises.

A Christian who depends on self will not have faith to receive the promises of God, since faith is the currency of heaven (see Hebrew 11:6). Lack of faith will always bring fear and insecurity. Actually, **lack of faith is unbelief** (James 1:6-8).

A Christian who trusts in self is a defeated Christian. Defeated, in the sense of living a life devoid of the truth and therefore devoid of victory. The Bible tells us that experiencing the truth shall set us free.

John 8:32

“And you shall know the truth in an experiential way, and the truth shall make you free”.

2 Corinthians 3:5

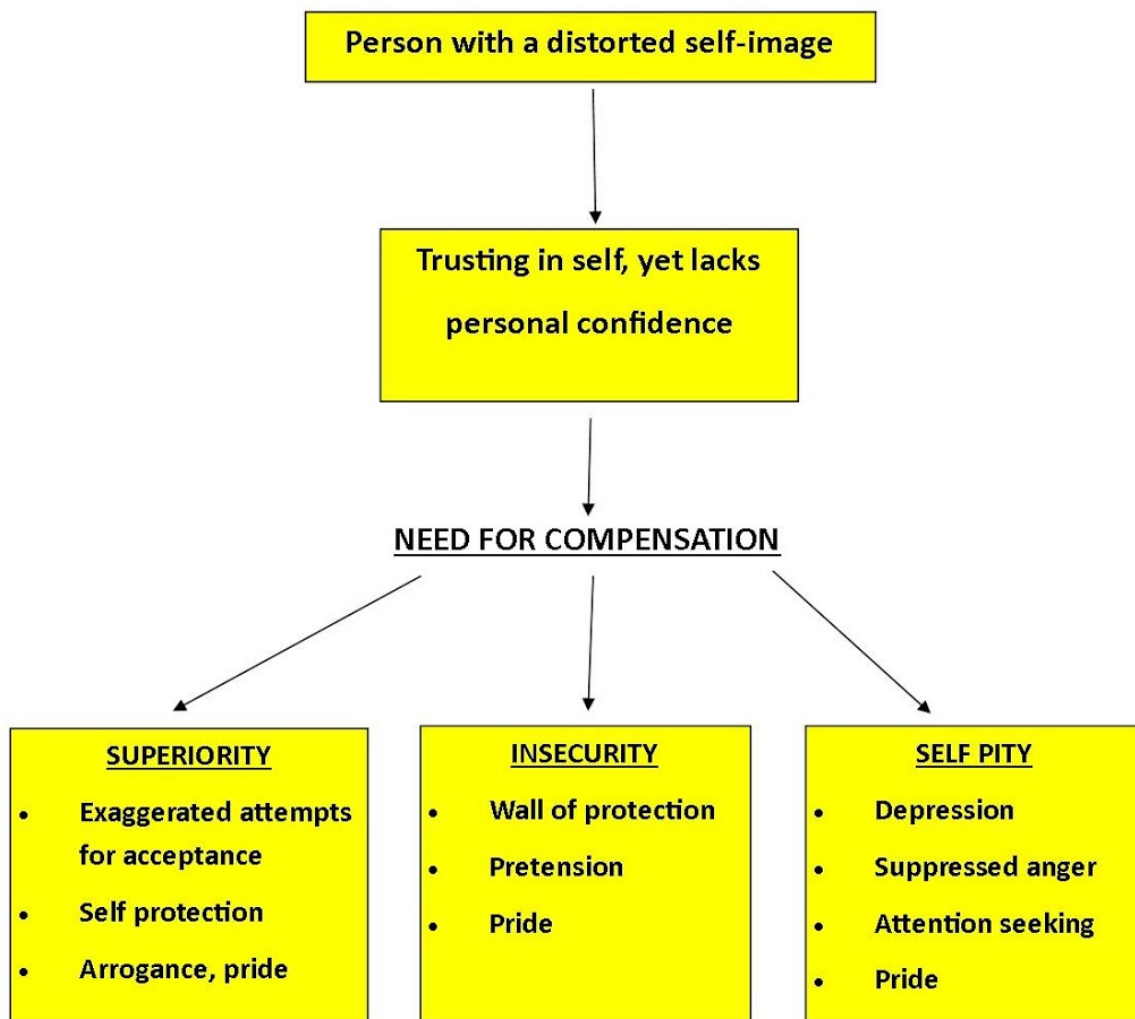
“Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to evaluate anything, this evaluation originating from ourselves, but our sufficiency has its source in God”.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

The enemy will use people, circumstances, the past and our weaknesses, to get us to focus on all these things instead of on God. Focusing on self will ignite the flesh, which will strengthen the bondages and increase our weaknesses. **Focusing on Jesus and our identity in Christ, and depending on the Holy Spirit, will transform our lives from the natural into the supernatural.**

REPERCUSSIONS OF A POOR SELF-IMAGE



All these three characteristics are related to pride.
Self is in the centre of the person's life.