



## Lecture 3

### The Purpose our Worth in Christ

Romans 12:2 (Wuest translation)

**"And stop assuming an outward expression that does not come from within you and is not representative of what you are in your inner being but is patterned after this age; but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind, resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found that it meets specifications, place your approval upon it".**

**Extract from Kenneth S. Wuest Word Studies:**

*In effect, Paul says to the saints, "Change your outward expression from that which you had before salvation, an expression which came from your totally depraved nature and was representative of it, to an expression which comes from your regenerated inner being and is representative of it." The saint is to do this by the renewing of his mind. "Renewing" is anakainosis, which Trench defines as "the gradual conforming of the man more and more to that new spiritual world into which he has been introduced, and in which he now lives and moves; the restoration of the divine image; and in all this so far from being passive, he must be a fellow-worker with God." Thayer defines the word, "a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better." That is, the change of outward expression is dependent upon the renovation, the complete change for the better of the believer's mental process. This is accomplished through the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit, who when definitely, and intelligently, and habitually yielded to puts sin out of the believer's life and produces His own fruit. He does that by controlling the mental processes of the believer. It is the prescription of the apostle. "Habitually be ordering your behaviour within the sphere and by means of the Spirit, and you will positively not fulfil the desire of the flesh (evil nature)" (Gal. 5:16).*

In some way this reminds me of the time I served in the military in Spain. I had to change my whole attitude. I had to submit myself to a new environment, a new system and a whole new life. I was no longer in charge of my life, rather my superiors were in charge. As believers, we need to understand we too live in a new realm; not a rigid military system, but a loving relationship with Jesus.

**Lack of worth in Christ is directly connected with conforming to this world instead of being transformed into the image of Christ.** While our born again spirit is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, our mind must be renewed day after day; it is our job to obey (receive) the truth and to reject anything contrary to God's Word.

Conforming to this world means choosing the inferior, corrupted, deceiving realm of this sinful planet. It means identifying more with the natural realm than with the spiritual. It also means choosing to trust self instead of God. Self-reliance will automatically cause us to feel insecure and incapable of controlling situations and as a result, will bring unbelief. It will make us depend on others for our sense of accomplishment and fulfilment. Relying on self will steal our peace. Consequently, fear and insecurity will be two of the many repercussions we will experience.

The “outward expression that comes from within” as we read in Romans 12:2 is depending on the Holy Spirit: Jesus living through us by the Holy Spirit. This is sanctification by the Holy Spirit and our part is to cooperate with Him and to renew our minds, pull down strongholds and cast down any thought which exalts itself against the knowledge of Christ. No room for self-dependence!

1 Samuel 16: 7 (NASB)

**“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**

God has made us the way we are, not only our bodies but also our personality, because He has a **UNIQUE PURPOSE** which He wants to accomplish through each of us. We see here in 1 Samuel that our heart is the most important part of us. The Lord has made us in His own image – we have a free will to choose.

Proverbs 4:23 (NASB)

**“Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.”**

Lack of worth in Christ is the result of a polluted soul. God tells us to “watch over” our hearts with all diligence; this means embracing the life of Jesus in us by the indwelling Holy Spirit and embracing our identity in Christ.

In a Christian, lack of worth in Christ means believing a lie. Lies are from the enemy; it is the nature of Satan. Lies will keep us in bondage. A Christian can have the truth in terms of believing in the Cross, and yet still believe lies about themselves. When the Bible teaches us the truth will set us free, it also means embracing the truth about ourselves and not being double minded. A Christian without an understanding of their worth in Christ is a double minded Christian, living with unbelief and self-deception.

Every unsaved human being is ruled by the evil nature. Every repercussion of the Fall was passed down in the sinful nature to all descendants of Adam. A believer in the Lord Jesus, however, is as worthy as the blood of Jesus; this is the price Jesus paid for everyone who believes in the Truth.

Lack of worth in Christ comes from fear. A faith based Christian will not entertain this toxic personality trait. A Christian with poor worth in Christ will tend to criticise others and blame-shift. They will seek to “balance out” their deficit of security, identity in Christ and lack of trust in the Name of Jesus.

The question is: what is that Name worth? According to who Jesus is, we ought to consider His Name, the Name above all Names. Jesus has given us His Name and His power of attorney. A Christian entertaining guilt, shame, fear, unbelief, etc. is not honouring God’s Word nor honouring Jesus, our Saviour.

Our mind is the spiritual battleground. Unless we FULLY embrace our identity in Christ, even though we are saved by His Grace, we have become double-minded. It is a contradiction within our soul; our minds are divided to the extent that the flesh dominates the spirit. As believers, failing to know and receive the worth we now have in Christ, and any other form of unspiritual stronghold, will jeopardise our spiritual growth and will bring unbelief in our Christian walk.

James 1:6 (Wuest translation)

**“But let him be presenting his request in a trusting attitude, not in an expression of that hesitation which vacillates [between faith and unbelief and inclines toward unbelief], for the person who vacillates [between faith and unbelief] is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.”**