



Lecture 4

The Believer's Worth in Christ

VISIBLE SYMPTOMS OF NOT EMBRACING OUR WORTH IN CHRIST

INABILITY TO DEVELOP A LASTING TRUST IN GOD

When a person declares that there are things about their appearance they would like to change, they reveal a basic distrust in God for making them the way they are. The underlying thought is, "If God has already messed up my life to this degree, I can't trust Him not to mess it up to the same degree now or in the future."

In today's times, more and more people are having plastic surgery or other procedures to change their appearance and even their personality and gender.

Ephesians 2:10 (Wuest translation)

"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 behavior."

SEEKING APPROVAL AND PERFECTIONISM

An extreme desire for approval may cause a person to overcompensate by excelling in a specific area to the detriment of other important areas. Perfectionism is also a way to try to compensate for insecurity or a sense of inferiority; trying to do things "perfectly".

INABILITY TO CONCENTRATE.

Preoccupation with what others think of them, will distract a person from concentrating on the work at hand. They will have an extreme desire for approval.

SUPERIORITY ATTITUDE

A person may hold a high opinion of themselves, sometimes higher than is held by others. Such a person will dismiss others' attitudes toward them by carefully selecting associations in which they will appear to excel. Trying to compensate with superiority is simply pride.

INFERIORITY ATTITUDE

A fear of what others think may cause a person to withdraw. Rejection by others because of their shyness only "confirms" in such a person's mind that they really are inferior to others. This is illustrated in the life of Moses. This is also pride with a different expression.

Exodus 4:10 (NASB)

"Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

A person's inward image of their personal worth has a direct bearing on their attitude toward God, parents, spouse, environment, and others in their life and also their ability to make friends. Acceptance of who we are in Christ and how God has made us, and the gifts and talents He has given us, will nullify any sense of insecurity and unworthiness, and will bring peace and purpose.

The source of unworthiness is rejection from others and consequently self-rejection

Carrying rejection from the past or present will cause a number of dysfunctions in our soul. The most damaging factor for a believer living with rejection is that it will lead to feeling rejected by God. It is a "true feeling," but actually a lie, because God never rejects us.

Rejection and fear of rejection spread in our souls and will bring other repercussions:

Cain felt rejected by God and was jealous of his brother Abel. He was jealous because he thought God loved Abel more than him. God did not reject Cain, but his selfish deed.

The enemy's goal is to make us associate rejection with unworthiness; in this way causing us to focus on our deficit (insecurity, fear, shame, guilt) instead on focusing on Jesus.

Jealousy is the feeling of anger or bitterness which someone has when they think that another person is trying to take a person, or a possession, away from them.

Jealousy is also the feeling of anger or bitterness which someone has when they wish that they could have the qualities or possessions that another person has.

Genesis 4:1-13

"Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!"

God gave Cain two opportunities to humble himself and to repent. Had Cain responded to the correction the first time, he would not have killed his brother, because God wanted to restore him and to show His love for him.

Acknowledging our weaknesses, wrongs and limitations requires humility. Humility will bring us to God, to His promises and to His love and power to overcome. It also brings healing.

Acknowledging our weaknesses and limitations while allowing unworthiness, is not humility but pride; it means denying Jesus in our lives. It will bring us to experience fear, insecurity which will steal our peace and joy and inhibit our growth as Christians.

**OUR INHERITANCE FROM GOD IS THE NEW LIFE IN JESUS;
OUR OLD LIFE IS NOT A PART OF IT.**