

SHIFT

the life we are meant to live



February 21st, 2016

Living Without Vainglory

1. REJECT THE FALSE NARRATIVE:

MY VALUE IS DETERMINED BY HUMAN ASSESSMENT.

***Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- Proverbs 26:12 NIV***

***We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves.
When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with
themselves, they are not wise. - 2 Corinthians 10:12 NIV***

Ephesians 6:6; Colossians 3:22; 1 Thessalonians 2: 4, 6

VAINGLORY: a passion for affirmation by others, driven by a deep sense of insecurity.

***For am I seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I
were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. - Galatians 1:10 ESV***

HOW JESUS SEES GOOD DEEDS

Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18

A. His Concern Is Not with The METHOD but The MOTIVE.

***"...in secret." ... "to your Father who is in secret." ... "And your Father who sees in
secret will reward you."***

B. They Should Be Done with SELF-FORGETFULNESS.

“Don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” ...“do not look gloomy, or disfigure your face!” ... Anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others.”

C. S. Lewis once said: *Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.*

Luke 18:11-14; Philippians 2:1-11

C. They Should Be VERY ACTIVE IN OUR LIVES.

“When you pray, go into your room and shut the door...”

2. EMBRACE THE JESUS NARRATIVE:

MY VALUE IS DETERMINED BY DIVINE ASSESSMENT.

Such confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

- 2 Corinthians 3:4-5 NIV

But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. – 1 Corinthians 15:10

NLT

I Will Shift by...

- Memorizing [2 Corinthians 3:4-5](#).
- Becoming more self-forgetful when doing good deeds.
- Finding my true worth in God and God alone.
- Giving my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

1. How does vainglory get ahold of us, and how can we combat it?
2. Review Matthew 6:1-18: Why was Jesus so critical of these three areas of spirituality (giving, praying, and fasting)? What are some modern areas of concern when it comes to being ostentatious with our religious practices?
3. Have you ever been tempted to let people in on what good works you were doing? Why do we desire this so strongly?
4. Which of the three points under “How Jesus Sees Doing Good” grabbed you the most? Explain.
5. How does knowing how much God loves us and how immeasurably important we are to him, help us find a better self-assessment than trying to get it through self-promotion or the approval of others? How can we be better nourished in our hearts with the approval of God?
6. What can you do in the coming weeks to purify your motives regarding spiritual activities such as praying, giving, and fasting?
7. Group Experience: **1 John 4:17-18** - ***“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.”***
 - a. First person- read aloud the passage. Everyone listen to each word and spend one minute of silence following the reading.
 - b. Second person- read aloud the passage slowly. Each person pay attention to any one word or phrase that speaks to you in the deepest place of your heart. Repeat this word or phrase several times in silence to yourself over two minutes of reflection.
 - c. Third person- read aloud the passage normally. Now everyone spend 3-5 minutes in silent conversation with God, both listening and thanking God. Then the leader can say a final “AMEN!”

SOUL TRAINING – SECRET SERVICE

A Personal Transformation Exercise

The Principle:

When was the last time you did something for someone else without them noticing? Doing things for others in secret takes the glory away from us. When we don't get the attention and recognition for something we have done, it's devoid of meaning, but instead, it becomes something even better; it becomes a selfless act.

Giving without wanting anything in return is at the heart of the Gospel message. Jesus came and died out of love for the human race. He does not *require* anything from us. Jesus' sacrifice was completely selfless and therefore God says He will be lifted higher than any other name. One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord because of what He has done. This is not saying that doing things for others in secret will get you the same honor, but God does promise to bless those who do not receive earthly rewards for good deeds.

The Plan:

This week, try to do **five** things that will lift someone else's burden. Any act of service that lightens the load of someone else will work perfectly. Examples include doing someone's laundry, filling their car with gas, cleaning someone's room, helping them with a project, driving someone where they need to go, etc.

These are five intentional acts of kindness. Do not receive any rewards or gifts for doing these things. As much as possible, try to make it a secret so that the person you are helping does not know it was you! Trying to not be noticed is hard and can feel weird, but it's worth it!