

What Does the Bible Say About (part 2): Self-Worth? (App notes)

I am an older middle-class heavy-set white heterosexual male who was highly educated at four Christian Charismatic schools, and raised in Alabama both as a Southern Baptist & a Crimson Tide fan.

I just listed 8 classifications above: age, economic position, appearance, sexual state & identification, education, religion & beliefs, culture & sports orientation(s). ***What pre-judgments did you make about me based on these descriptors?***

Daniel's message last week was absolutely phenomenal when he discussed LGBT+ and the Church. He was clear when he...

1. ...read the Scripture verses that prohibit same sex relationships
2. ...quoted & acknowledged opposing views which good writers & great speakers do
3. ...emphatically stated we cannot allow culture to change the Scriptures - to be clear: Church 212° has a HIGH VIEW of the Bible - it is the infallible Word of God.

“Our ‘*non-affirming view*’ of sexual variance means we do not condone ANY sinful lifestyle! BUT our vision is clear: we believe that *all people have value* and we are *committed to extending the unconditional love of Christ toward every person irregardless of their sins.*” We want to avoid “Limbo: how low can you go?”

You asked: What does the Bible say about...

1. Premarital-sex; subgroup: Co-habitation
2. Marriage, divorce, heterosexual problems: intimacy, disconnected, abuse, pornography, etc.
3. LGBT+ (effectively covered last week)
4. Infidelity/Adultery/Incest

Paul corrected the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 5, 6 & 7 about various forms of immoral behaviors (all the above). Paul then dedicates chapter 8 to the N. T. guide for ethical behavior: conscience. The O. T. used Law.

The Human Problem: In Romans chapter one Paul dealt with same-sex relations & ALL sexual immorality; envy, murder, strife; evil-mindedness &

deceit, whisperers & backbiters; violent, boastful, evil & disobedient people...He took three chapters to make his point:

“Basically, all of us, whether insiders or outsiders, start out in identical conditions, which is to say that we all start out as sinners... we’ve compiled this long and sorry record as sinners... and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us (Romans 3:10, 23 MSG)

“It wasn’t so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn’t know the first thing about living, tell you how to live...We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It’s a wonder God didn’t lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us” (Ephesians 2:1-3 MSG).

Has Church 212^o changed from her message from love, acceptance & forgiveness to one of sin & condemnation? “NO”, in each case the Bible is prescribing what’s best for human beings. God Created us; He knows the ensuing challenges. Many people who wrestle with relationship challenges are also struggling with self-worth - the lines get blurry. God hates sin because of the barriers guilt & shame create.

Barriers between people built by guilt, shame & resentment are unhealthy. However, healthy boundaries can deepen relationships.

“Boundaries can be most difficult to establish in the context of relationship because by definition it infers a state of connection OR attachment between people” (Dr. Mike Harrison)

Christian Psychologist Dr. Larry Crabb would say, *“I am not who I think I am, I am not even who other people think I am, I am who I think other people think I am.” Many people allow other people to define WHO they are. Who has defined you?*

In his book Boundaries, Dr. Henry Cloud states: *“Boundaries define us. They define what is me and what is not me. A boundary shows me where I end and someone else begins, leading me to a sense of ownership”* [& responsibility]

Dr. Christina Hibbett who believes, “*self-esteem is a myth*” says, “***Self-esteem is what we think and feel and believe about ourselves. Self-worth is recognizing ‘I am greater than all of those things. It is a deep knowing that I am of value, that I am loveable, necessary to this life, and of incomprehensible worth’***”

Do you recognize you are valuable, loveable, necessary to this life; you are of incomprehensible worth? Not knowing we are valuable & loveable leads us to find value elsewhere...

The Pharisees asked John the Baptist two questions: “*Who are you...what do you say about yourself?*” (John 1:22). Did you know **WHO YOU ARE** and **WHAT YOU SAY** about yourself can be different?

Important questions to ask:

1. What are the “*myths*” [unfounded or false notions] that you feel & believe about yourself?
2. Are your feelings & beliefs always reliable?
3. What are your emotions & beliefs based upon?
4. How can we be sure of who we are & know our true value?

Value is determined by what Someone will pay - what did God pay for YOU?

“It’s a wonder God didn’t lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah” (Eph. 2:3b-6 MSG).

In this context is written, “*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*” (Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV).

1. Saved BY Grace
2. Received BY Faith
3. Re-created in Christ to DO Good Works