

Adopting A Biblical Self-Perception

A Study through the book of Ephesians

Ephesians 2:10

How does God want us to view ourselves? He wants us to view ourselves according to what He says about us in Scripture. Adopting a “Biblical self-perception” is fundamental in cooperating with God’s purpose for us. Let’s talk about this today.

Like it or not, we all will all grapple with some sort of distorted self-perception that gets in the way and hinders what we are designed to be and do.

For instance, if we carry around a degrading self-perception, we tend to disqualify ourselves from opportunities to fulfill God’s loving purpose for our lives.

Or if we carry an inflated prideful self-perception, we can’t be used by God because God always opposes pride of every sort (see James 4:6).

We must adopt a Biblical self-perception. I believe this starts by humbly and gratefully owning the truths about our salvation as they are spelled out in the second chapter of Ephesians. Let’s review what we have learned so far.

We must embrace why we are saved, **Ephesians 2:4-5a, “But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.**

We must embrace how we are saved, **Ephesians 2:5b, “it is by grace you have been saved.”**

We must embrace the way this salvation is experienced, **Ephesians 2:8a, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith”.**

We must embrace the manner in which this salvation is offered, **Ephesians 2:8b-9, “and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”**

This brings us to how we must embrace the results of our salvation, **Ephesians 2:10, For we are God’s workman-ship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.** Let’s unpack this powerful verse to own its truths about ourselves.

Ephesians 2:10a, For we are God’s workmanship:

This word “workmanship” in the Greek is *poema*. Literally it means such a well-crafted work it is regarded as a Masterpiece. Note the tense of the verse; it is saying you are right now God’s Masterpiece! And we are to adopt this truth as part of our self-perception.

But doesn’t this perspective challenge you? It does me. How can we adopt a self-perception of being God’s masterpiece when the truth is, our life is now marked by certain consequences of our past failures, our present struggles and our many flaws that haven’t changed yet?

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How in the world can we be considered God's masterpiece? First of all, we need to realize that this verse is not saying we are a masterpiece of human perfection. Only Jesus was that.

It's like how the dark background colors on a canvas bring out the vibrant colors of the master artist's subject matter. God is presently using our many imperfections to masterfully display the vibrant love, mercy, grace, forgiveness and transforming power of Jesus for others to see.

Ephesians 2:10b, created in Christ Jesus...

Notice that the masterpiece that God has made you to be, is created in the environment of your ongoing personal relationship with Christ Jesus. The importance of pressing into Jesus on a daily basis cannot be overstated.

This word created means more than simply making something, but like what God did in Genesis 1:1, this word "kitzo" in the Greek means to create something that is inhabitable.

In the realm of our relationship with Christ Jesus, we are God's masterpieces because God made us to be a holy habitation for the Holy Spirit's presence, where He will continue to develop in us godliness, the fruit of the Spirit, Christlikeness etc.

This means owning a Biblical self-perception must include the statement. "I am created in Christ Jesus to be a habitation for the Holy Spirit's presence and work."

Ephesians 2:10c, to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do:

This brings us to our third and final Biblical self-perception that we are to adopt. "I am made to do God assigned good works."

What are these good works? Are they particular assignments from God to minister and serve in Jesus' name? Or are they regular everyday tasks made good by displaying godliness, the fruit of the Spirit, and Christlikeness in them? Both!

This means that every day brings a Divine purpose to every task you are to fulfill. Whether your day finds you staying home doing chores, or at your workplace, or doing something special.

When you are displaying Jesus, His heart, His goodness, His purity etc. in everything you are doing, it means you are doing the good works that God prepared for you to do.

Notice how these good works are prepared in advance. God foresaw every season in your life, He foresaw every place and circumstance you will be in, and in them all, prepared His good works for you to do. You simply need to ask for His help to accomplish your work for today.

Conclusion: We are called to adopt a Biblical self-perception. This includes owning the truth that we are God's masterpieces. Owning the truth that we are created in Christ as a habitation for the Holy Spirit. And owning the truth that we are made to do God assigned good works.