

October 2, 2022

How We See Ourselves

by Rickie Jenkins

“Evil would like nothing better than for us not to like ourselves” (Mr. Rogers). Satan is the father of lies. From the beginning, he is a liar. Satan would like nothing better than to destroy us. One of his best tools is to do that from within. We focus, and rightly so, much attention on the outward man. But Satan’s real victories come when he can get the inner man to believe his lies.

Jesus said a man is to “love his neighbor as himself”. Paul said a man is to “love his wife as he loves himself”. Man was created in the image of God. The thought that man is to love himself is often dismissed as positive mental mumbo jumbo. Neither the Lord nor Paul are talking about positive mental attitude where man takes no account of himself. However, both the Lord and Paul tell us that man is to highly value himself. He is to highly value himself because he is created in the image of God. Satan would love nothing better than for us to loath ourselves. He wants us to diminish who we are in God’s eyes. If evil can convince us we are of no value and no better than a dog, then why try to live up to the image of God?

Yes, Paul warns for us not to think too highly of ourselves. But the fundamental premise is man is to think highly of himself. How can we think too highly of ourselves if we do not first think

highly of ourselves? The person who thinks he is no better than a worm is not challenged by that. He already thinks lowly of himself. If you have every talked to a person who is addicted to alcohol or drugs, you might hear them say, “I am just not worth anything”. Until that person sees they are of great value, they will not take the effort to get any better. First, they need to stop believing the lie they are of no value. They need to like themselves.

Have you ever been around a person who always negative? They have nothing good to say about themselves or anyone else. What is their problem? They have believed the lie that Satan sold. He has convinced them they are of no value, and they do not like themselves. Believing the lie affects every aspect of their lives: marriage, job, financial, etc.

We have enough problems with our own internal conversations, we do not need the help of evil. We can beat ourselves up enough without any help from Satan. We already see ourselves of little value. We do not need a push from evil. We are already broken by sin. We already feel deep guilt and shame for having broken the heart of God. We have self-loathing because of the loved ones we have hurt. Just stop! Stop it! God’s grace is sufficient to make us we strong when we are weak. God’s

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Gospel Meeting - Cedar Park, October 2-5

Gospel Meeting - Waller, Tx, October 2-5

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, October 14-16

Gospel Meeting - Benchley, October 16-19

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

forgiveness restores us. He is telling us, "I have not given up on you! You do not give up on yourself! Stop listening to the lies! Listen to My truth! You are made in My image! Love yourself for I love you!"

If all we see is what is awful about ourselves, then all we see is what is awful about our neighbor and our mates. All the world will be dark. No, let the Son in. He is the light of the world. He changes everything about how we see ourselves! By His grace, we are Sons of God!

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers. She had an infection this past week.

Dinah Williams is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother) is under treatment for cancer.

Sylvia Stinnett's brother, Jerome, had surgery and is recovering.

Leta Ebeling had surgery for her gall bladder and is recuperating at home.

Elaine Kersch is having tests run to diagnose problems with her lungs.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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