

Seeing Ourselves As God Sees Us

Introduction

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

1. **Generally, “Objectivity” is a valuable thing in life.**
2. **There is a problem with us anytime that we have a wrong or inadequate “perspective” on things.**
 - A. **When our “vantage point” is poor, we can be greatly hindered.**
3. **The one thing we seriously need to see objectively is ourselves.**
4. **Two extremes are possible in regard to this:**
 - A. **We may think too little of ourselves:**

1 Corinthians 12:15-16 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

B. We may think too much of ourselves:

1 Corinthians 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

5. **We need to make sure that we think soberly about ourselves (Romans 12:3 – introduction text)**
6. **That means learning to see ourselves as God sees us. His view of us is complete and perfect**
Hebrews 4:13

- 7. This morning we want to examine some things about ourselves that we need to see more accurately.**

Our Nature

- 1. We are beings made in God's own image:**

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- 2. We are persons, not things.**

- 3. We have dignity and honor – no matter who we are, we have an identity as God's created child.**

Our Sins

- 1. It would be good if everyone had the attitude of David:**

- A.** Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.
- B.** Psalms 139:1 You have searched me and known me.
- C.** Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- 2. We need God's help in seeing our sins as they really are.**

Psalms 19:12-13 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from **secret faults**. Keep back Your servant also from **presumptuous sins**; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

- A. **Presumptuous** – too bold or forward; showing overconfidence; taking liberties.**

Our Weaknesses and Strengths

- 1. Every individual has a unique set of strengths and weaknesses.**
- 2. We need to make sure that we look at self (as well as others) below the surface:**

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

- 3. We need to avoid looking at self (as well as others) "according to the flesh" (2 Cor 5:16).**

Our Worth

- 1. A person has more "value" than other creatures:**

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Matthew 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- 2. Do we see our own worth as God does? We are very valuable to Him!**

Our Potential

- 1. God sees possibilities where we often see only problems.**
- 2. What open doors are before us that God sees?**
Revelation 3:8

Conclusion

1. **We need to see ourselves as God sees us congregationally, as well as individually (Revelation chapters 2-3).**
2. **Though in a sense it may be uncomfortable to see ourselves as God does, in a more important sense it is vitally good to do so.**

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

3. God sees:

- A. **What we have been.**
 - B. **What we are.**
 - C. **What we can be!**
- John 8:1-11**

4. **We need to see ourselves as those whom God chose to redeem "with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19).**
5. **The church consists of those whom Christ "purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).**

Invitation

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Richard Thetford, July 2007 (Taken from a sermon by Gary Henry, 1999)

When 16-year old Eliza married the 20-year old tailor, he had never been to school. Others might have written his education off as a lost cause, but Eliza didn't. She taught him to read, write, and spell. Those days were difficult, but he proved to be a fast learner. In fact, he learned so well that years later he was elected president of the United States! When he ran for a second term he lost, but refused to give up. Instead, he won a seat in the U.S. Senate. Who? our 17th president, Andrew Johnson.