

Seeing Ourselves as God Sees Us

Introduction

Scripture Reading: John 8:1-11

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 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.

6. That means learning to see ourselves as God sees us. His view of us is complete and perfect

Hebrews 4:13 And **there is no creature hidden from His sight**, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

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:**

David Anointed King:
1 Samuel 16:7

3. **We need to avoid looking at self (as well as others) “according to the flesh.”**
2 Corinthians 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.

A. Others may also see potential where we may not.

2. What open doors are before us that God sees?

Revelation 3:8 **"I know your works**. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

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 (S.R.)
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).
6. May we ALL learn to truly – see ourselves as God sees us!

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.