

Godly Self-Esteem

Romans 12:1-8

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27***

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. **Psalms 139:13-14***

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and

*with all your mind and with all your strength.’ **Mark 12:29-30***

*The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” **Mark 12:31***

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **1 John 4:7-8**

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so

loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:10-11

**If we don't love ourselves,
we don't have much of a capacity
to love other people.**

**Do you see yourself
the way God sees you?**

People with a positive self-image

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| ▪ High moral and ethical sensitivity | ▪ More productive on the job |
| ▪ Strong sense of family | ▪ Few chemical addictions |
| ▪ Successful in interpersonal relationships | ▪ More involved socially and politically |
| ▪ Success is in relationships, not materialism | ▪ More generous and charitable |

A persons' self-esteem is reflected in their

1. Attitudes about their appearance
2. Attitudes about their achievement

“Therefore...”

- Because you are sinful
- Because God is great and full of grace
- Because God is sovereign
- Because you are responsible,
therefore, this is how we ought to live...

To have the self-esteem that God wants us to feel about ourselves

1. **Requires a total Self-sacrifice.**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould

Romans 12:1 (J.B. Phillips)

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:2**

2. Requires an honest self-evaluation.

To have the self-esteem that God wants us to feel about ourselves

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Romans 12:3

3. Learn and exercise your spiritual gifts.

To have the self-esteem that God wants us to feel about ourselves

Spiritual Gifts are motivational gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to each person, to serve each other in the Church.

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. **Rom. 12:4-6***

1. The Gift of Prophecy

*If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. **Romans 12:6b***

- Proclaiming the truth

2. Service *If it is serving, let him serve; **Romans 12:7a***

- The ability to identify unmet needs and quickly meet them

3. Teaching *if it is teaching, let him teach; **Romans 12:7b***

- To clearly explain and apply God's Word to help others grow in their understanding and relationship with Christ

4. Encouragement or exhortation *if it is encouraging, let him encourage; Romans 12:8a*

- The ability to urge, inspire, and encourage others to action and to persevere in their faith.

5. Giving *if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; Romans 12:8b*

- The ability to recognize and provide whatever resources are needed to support God's will and plan.

6. Leadership or administration *if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; Romans 12:8c*

- A leader is one who has the ability to set goals and motivate other people to work voluntarily and harmoniously toward those goals.

7. Mercy *if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Rom. 12:8d*

- A deep compassion and empathy for those in need, leading to actions that alleviate suffering and show Christ's love.

If you don't use your Spiritual gift

1. You will lose it.
2. A gifted person who is inactive feels guilty, becomes critical, and defensive.