

Self-Image/Esteem vs God's-Image/Esteem

I. Introduction

- A. What do you think about the world's clear message, "look within yourself" for goodness, greatness, and the answers?
- B. How many have ever felt insecurity, fear, anger, anxiety, confusion, depression, or maybe worse?
- C. What is a correct self-image?

II. Scripture

- A. **Gen 1:26-27, 31**—"26-And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27-So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. 31- And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."
- B. **Rom. 3:10-18, 23**—"10-As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11-There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12-They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13-Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14-Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15-Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16-Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17-And the way of peace have they not known: 18-There is no fear of God before their eyes. 23-For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
- C. **Jer. 17:9**—"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
- D. **Rom. 5:1-2, 5-6**—"1-Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2-By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 5-And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. 6-For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

- E. **2Co. 5:17**—"*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*"
- F. **Gal. 5:22-25**—"*22-But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23-Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24-And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25-If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*"

III. Application

- A. Have you seen yourself somewhat buying into the world's humanistic philosophy of being your own savior, looking within yourself to find all the answers? How?

- B. Do you want to work on your self-image by feeding the flesh, or be conformed to God's image by yielding to His Spirit? Why?

- C. Most seek our own way, glory, or good, to promote our self above others out of insecurity. God says that we should seek Him and His righteousness first, "*and all these things shall be added unto you*" (**Mat. 6:33**), and to "*[I]et nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves*" (**Php. 2:3**). Why is it hard to be loving and put God and others before our self to fulfill our needs?

- D. Does any of us have the strength (by ourselves) to overcome the insecurities of our flesh (e.g., pride, lust, fear, anger, depression)?

- E. Does anyone have a deep scar from the past appropriate to share for us to pray for God's supernatural healing and perspective?