

SELF ESTEEM

Christian Character in Action: Lesson 12

13 May 2022

The world teaches us to love ourselves and to look out for number one (self), while the Bible teaches us to love others and put them first. The selfish worldly philosophy will leave you unfulfilled. God's way will bring you joy and satisfaction in life.

Rom 12:3 Paul tells a group of saved people not to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think. Saved people have a different perspective than the world because we know that none of us is better than Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is the greatest, that means I'm not.

- When you think more highly of yourself than you ought, you are not thinking soberly. You will do and say things that are not rational.
- God gave you "**the measure of faith**" that you needed to get saved. None of us can take credit for our salvation. We need to consider where we would be without Jesus Christ and give Him all the praise and glory for anything we might accomplish.

Mk 12:28-31 Jesus said the essence of all the commandments can be found in these two: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself. He said there is no greater commandment than these.

- That means the love of self is not the greatest love of all.
 - Self-love cannot satisfy, fulfil, or bring contentment to your life.
-

Why We Shouldn't Have Any Self-Esteem

Psa 62:9 Why should we not think highly of ourselves? Because God says vanity (nothing) is worth more than all the men of low degree and men of high degree combined.

- The Lord could certainly accomplish more by taking corrupt man out of the equation (Gen 6:11-13).
- The value of man's contribution doesn't give anyone grounds for self-esteem.

Psa 39:4-6 **Every man at his best state is altogether vanity.** Men like to challenge other men hoping to outperform or do better than them. But when we compare ourselves to God, no man can honestly say they are better than Him.

- Fame is temporary. You may reach the top, but people will soon forget you.
- God will never lose His position at the top. He'll never be forgotten.

Prov 28:21 The person you respect or idolize the most would disappoint you if you saw how low they would go to satisfy their hunger.

- You might think you're a decent person. That's because you're not hungry.
- The best men God ever had (Noah, Abraham, Moses, Aaron, David, Solomon, Elijah, Paul, Peter) are not worthy of our high esteem. Therefore, we also are not worthy of having others esteem us greatly.

Php 2:3-8 If you esteem others as better than you, it will make it very difficult for you to be offended.

- It's only when you feel that you deserve to be treated with respect and to be highly regarded, that you get offended when someone doesn't esteem you as highly as you esteem yourself.
-

Lk 14:7-11 Humble yourself and take the low place. Let others take the high place. You will avoid being insulted and people won't consider you to be a threat. Put others first, speak well of them, give way, give others first choice and you will be treated graciously.

1 Cor 4:6-15 Don't be puffed up, thinking you're better than someone else. It will lead to strife. Any gifts, talents, or skills that you possess came from God. Use them to God's glory.

- Instead of competing for dominance, give way to others and be happy for them when they do well, even if they don't treat you the way you would like them to.

1 Cor 15:8-10 Most people see Paul as a great apostle because he never saw himself that way. He counted himself as the least.

- Paul knew he deserved hell and that's where he would be if not for the grace of God. He gave credit to God for everything he ever accomplished in his ministry.
-

Give up your self-esteem; it can never give you satisfaction.

Give the Lord all the honor and glory; He'll satisfy you beyond measure.