

DON'T BE DECEIVED (Part 6)

“...about God's View of You”

INTRO: Satan hates Jesus. Because Jesus is in us, he hates us, too. Just as he tried to divert Jesus from doing the Father's will through his lies and deception, he wants to use that same strategy on us. So, don't be deceived.

TODAY: Don't be deceived about God's View of You (Gal. 6:3; Rom. 12:3). How we view ourselves (identity) and our value determines our attitudes and behavior (Matt. 6:22-23; Eph. 1:18).

SOURCES of our Identity: 4 factors construct how we see ourselves: Our **outer** world (birth, childhood, upbringing; how we were treated and trained, messages sent to us by our relationships – how were we programmed to see ourselves. The **world within us** is what we bring physically, emotionally, spiritually – includes any handicaps, defects, etc. **Satan** is a third source of poor identity. He uses our feelings against us by lying, blinding, accusing, and deceiving us. **God** is final source. How does He see us? Where we go to find ourselves and our values is critical. To properly discover our identity and value we must return to the One who created us in the first place to discover who He says we are.

I. FALSE VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

A. CULTURES criteria:

Appearance (how we look), relationships (who we know) - parents, friends, single, married, our possessions (our status symbols, where we live, what we drive, our work and achievements, etc.) These criteria can distort our identity and value. All focus on externals.

B. Self-Measurements – world and Satan lie to us, but worse we lie to ourselves.

1. Over-estimate who we are – pride deceives us into an attitude of superiority (Rom. 12:3). Self-conceit is self-deceit. God hates pride (Jam. 4:6,10).
2. Under-estimate who we are – feelings of inferiority (Moses, Jeremiah).

3. Comparison (OCD) – Examine your own life. Read Gal. 6:4-5 MSG... Comparing ourselves to others takes our shortcomings and measures them by someone else's highlight reel! The only safe place to go to find our true identity and value is to the One who made us in the first place.

II. GOD'S VIEW OF YOU (Rom. 12:3)

We are valuable to God. He thinks we are each unique and special – one of a kind (Gen. 1:27; Psalms 139:13-16; Matt. 6:26-31; Eph. 2:10). Reasons we are valuable? Because of:

- A. Creation (Gen. 1:27; Psalms 139:13-16) – We are made in His image and likeness. We represent Him.
- B. Salvation – What makes something valuable? Who owns it? What someone is willing to pay for it? God owns us. He purchased us. He gave His best for us (1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Peter 1:18-19). He loves us (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). We are forgiven (Eph. 1:4). No condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
- C. Sanctification – What we are becoming. We are becoming like Him (Phil. 1:6; 2:13; Eph. 2:10; Rom 8:29). He has given us His Holy Spirit, who indwells and works in us. We are needed in His body, the church (1 Cor. 12:15-26).
- D. Glorification – Where we are going – to spend eternity with Him (Rev. 22:3-5).

We are who we are by the grace of God (1 Cor. 15:9-10). There's no ground for boasting. Each of us is a handcrafted, divinely designed masterpiece of God's (Eph. 2:10) – talk about value! So, always be humble and grateful.

CONC: Don't be deceived by the culture, others, or even yourself. John Rinehart...

ILLUS: \$100 bill scrunched, stamped, spit on, etc. is still valuable! So are we!!!