

Ways Satan is spreading distorted messages about your worth.

You must increase your awareness about how Satan is spreading messages that pertain to your worth. For, you do not have to be ignorant about the ways in which Satan is trying to deceive and manipulate you (2 Corinthians 2:11)! Satan tries to spread false messages about worth through parents, peers, culture, media, experiences, etc.

Results Of An Unbiblical View Of Yourself

An unbiblical view of yourself has consequences. As we began this study (Proverbs 4:23; Luke 6:43-45), we must recognize that how you view yourself has a tremendous impact throughout your life. As a result, a Biblical view of yourself will result in making decisions that are spiritually beneficial. However, an unbiblical view of yourself will result in making decisions that are spiritually harmful (and often physically harmful).

Consequences of an unbiblical view of yourself. You can observe many things that happen as a result of people having an unbiblical view of themselves. And, maybe these things are true about you. Consider the following examples (though not an exhaustive list): Selfishness, arrogance, covetousness, depression, suicide, jealousy and envy, conformity, fear and worry, misplaced priorities, mistreating others, self-pity and excuses, addictions, harmful legacy, etc.

Conclusion

Every person has developed a way he/she views himself/herself. But, Satan has been actively working in this world to influence people *not* to have a Biblical view of themselves. Challenge yourself to honestly evaluate whether you have adopted any of these physically focused standards of determining your value. If so, look carefully at your life and see that you have been building a house on sand – and all the negative things that have been happening in your life as a result! Thankfully, God has given us a way to find our true value, as we will be considering throughout this series.

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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Godfidence

Seeing Yourself As God Sees You

Lesson 1:

Dangers Of An Unbiblical View Of Yourself

How do you view yourself? How you view yourself matters a great deal to how you live and the decisions you make (Proverbs 4:23; Luke 6:43-45). For, we tend to make decisions about our lives from the things we believe about ourselves – i.e. decisions about morality, religion, marriage and family, your education and career, the way you dress, what kind of car you drive, etc. Unfortunately, most people are taught to measure their sense of worth in the wrong ways. In fact, the entire scale and process people use to measure their sense of worth is deeply flawed. This has resulted in an unfathomable amount of damage throughout this world. What we need is a new way to view our worth that will lead to making decisions that are actually beneficial (i.e. Godfidence – God-confidence).

The purpose of this lesson is to learn the ways in which people often measure their sense of worth, how Satan is spreading these standards of measurement, and some results of people living with an unbiblical view of themselves.

Standards For Measuring Your Worth

The standard you use matters. Imagine going into a doctor's office and he uses a random stick each time to measure your height. One day, he says you measure 3 ¼ sticks tall. Another day, you are 5 ¾ sticks tall. Another, you are 4 ½ sticks tall. What would those numbers mean to you? Unfortunately, most people throughout the world are using all kinds of different standards to measure their sense of worth, which are not actually helpful in determining their true worth!

Physical standards are deeply flawed. Most people measure what is important to them so they can see whether they are improving

or losing in those areas (i.e. weight, retirement savings). As you measure the value of your life, you will either use a physical standard or one that is spiritual in nature. Of course, the overwhelming majority of people in this world use standards that are physical in nature.

Jesus teaches the flawed nature of trusting in physical things (Matthew 6:19-21). Namely every physical thing is only temporary in nature, while spiritual things are eternal. So, using physical standards will result in making decisions that only have a temporary impact. In fact, if you measure your worth by things that do not last, what does that say about your worth itself? It can only imply that you are not worth anything beyond when those things end! However, if something spiritual that lasts determines your worth, then your worth surpasses anything that is temporary!

In addition to not producing a truly accurate measurement of your worth, physical standards of measurement will also leave you unfulfilled and unsatisfied. For, at best, you will realize they are all just temporary and you can be separated from the things you perceive as giving you value at any moment! As King Solomon reflected on his life, he concluded everything about his physical life was useless (Ecclesiastes 1:2-4) – even though he was an extremely wealthy man who seemed to have everything a person could want to consider himself valuable. Instead, he concluded the only thing that mattered was whether he feared God and kept His commands (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Common physical standards. Many people use physical standards to measure their worth. Consider the following as a sample of physical things many people use to determine their worth: Money, possessions, family, career, friendships, education and knowledge, pleasures, appearance, prestige, experiences, accomplishments, skills, and satisfaction. There are undoubtedly many other ways people use physical standards to measure their worth.

Lives built on sand. What happens as people build their sense of worth by using such physically focused standards of value is like building a house on the sand. The house may appear beautiful from all outward appearances, but the faulty foundation will not hold together. So, when the storms of life hit, cracks in the house start to appear. Then, when death comes, this house will completely collapse. Jesus taught about building on the right foundation in Luke 6:46-49.

The right foundation involves hearing His words and obeying them! This is essential to having a well-built life. This, then, also applies

to having a well-built view of yourself. To get to this place, you must dig deep and remove all the faulty foundations you have been building your life and your sense of worth on. Then, you must carefully lay the proper foundation God wants you to lay in your life concerning your true worth (Godfidence)! So, evaluate your life carefully right now. Have you been building your sense of worth on physical things that are temporary or spiritual things that are eternal?

Satan Tries To Distort Your Sense Of Worth

Satan is actively trying to distort your sense of worth. The sooner you recognize there are evil forces at work throughout this world, the sooner you will be prepared not to accept all the evil messages in the world about your worth. God has warned us that Satan is actively working in this world to deceive and manipulate you (Ephesians 6:12, 16; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:26).

While we often focus on all the enemies and threats we face physically, God warns that there is a greater conflict we are facing that is spiritual in nature! Satan is described as a roaring lion who is actively prowling around looking for anyone to devour and has been successful to enslave many in his traps. Satan undoubtedly knows that how you view yourself matters a great deal in determining how you live and will try to manipulate the way you view yourself! So, it is naïve and foolish to think that Satan will not be actively trying to deceive and manipulate the way you view yourself!

The whole world is under Satan's sway. Satan is not working alone to deceive and manipulate. The Bible teaches he has angels and those who are working with him (Matthew 25:41). Although I do not understand everything about how these associates of Satan work, you must recognize they are working in this world to accomplish Satan's mission!

Then, the Bible also teaches Satan is actively working through other people he has been successful in deceiving and manipulating. In fact, 1 John 5:19 makes it clear that the whole world is under Satan's sway. So, the messages these people spread have been influenced by Satan in some way – including their messages about how to identify your worth! This means you must be on guard against any message about your worth that comes from anyone other than God! In fact, Satan is trying to convince us to measure our worth by comparing ourselves to others (2 Corinthians 10:12).