

LECTURE #6

SELF-WORTH OR SELF-WORSHIP: RE-EXAMINING A POPULAR MYTH

INTRODUCTION

- Why is it so critical to clearly understand what the Bible says about self?
- What message is the church receiving from the Self-Esteem advocates?

I. BIBLICAL TEACHING ON SELF-LOVE

A. The Two Great Commandments (Matthew 22:36-40)

1. There is no commandment to _____, but instead we must _____ others with the same passion we are inclined to give ourselves.
2. Christ is making it clear that he is speaking of _____ and only _____ commands, not _____.
3. Jesus actually presupposes that we _____ too much and _____ and _____ not enough.

B. Man in the image of God (Genesis 1:27, 9:6, James 3:9)

1. Image is with man _____ and _____ the Fall.
2. Man is not _____ worthwhile.
3. Man is an _____ of God who is of _____.

C. Man as a new creation in Christ (Rom. 5:8, II Cor. 5:17)

1. Christ suffered and died for man not because we were _____, but because of the _____ of our problem.
2. Being a new creation in Christ is an incentive to love _____ more, and not _____.

D. Dealing with "the self" God's way (Luke 9:23, Matt. 16:24-25, Mark 8:34)

1. A complete _____ of self, not _____.
2. A complete _____ and total _____ of self.
3. A complete _____ of personal desires, interests, and concerns.
4. A complete _____ of self in _____ and _____.

E. Thinking right about ourselves

1. Romans 12:3

- a. Don't be _____.
- b. Be _____.
- c. What you _____, God _____ you.

2. Ephesians 4:1-2

- a. Live a life worthy of your calling: Be _____.
- b. Our principle struggle is _____.

3. Philippians 2:1-4

- a. Live a life with _____
_____ of your own.
- b. Our principle struggle is that we think of ourselves as
_____ others.

II. WHY DO PEOPLE SAY THEY HATE THEMSELVES?

- A. To gain _____ and _____.
- B. Because _____ of their own sin has brought personal revulsion and uncomfortable feelings.
- C. To shift _____ from themselves to their adverse circumstances.

- D. Because it gives an excuse to focus on _____ (Ps. 36:1-2).
- E. Because they are _____ about their circumstances in their life.

III. EIGHT MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH SELF-LOVE COUNSELING

- A. Problem #1: It tends to bury people worse in _____.
- B. Problem #2: Man, and his intrinsic value, is _____ when it's _____ value that should be exalted.
- C. Problem #3: It confuses and frustrates believers who want to love and serve _____ and their _____ but are told they can't until they properly love _____.
- D. Problem #4: It strips of real _____ because it wrongly suggests that wrong treatment can maim a person for life—thereby putting it outside the Spirits sphere of work.
- E. Problem #5: It denies the very essence of _____ by supposing that Christ died for us because we have some _____ value.
- F. Problem #6: It teaches people, contrary to Jesus' words, to strive to _____ self or _____ self rather than deny self and take up the cross and follow Him.
- G. Problem #7: It preaches impossible methods of _____ by advocating an impressionistic child psychology so that teachers and parents are paralyzed, fearing that even a hard look will damage that child for life.
- H. Problem #8: This _____ may actually cut people off from the grace of God that gives power to change (I Peter 5:5).