

*start over and begin to live according to His plan and purpose. You don't have to live in the lie that you can't change and that your life is hopeless. Do you believe that?*

### **God Is Changing Your Identity**

God wants you to place your trust in what He has declared you to be as His child. He wants you to live with a new identity, a spiritual self-worth based upon His plan and purpose for your life.

"The truth is that, although of course we lead normal human lives, the battle we are fighting is on the spiritual level. The very weapons we use are not those of human warfare but powerful in God's warfare for the destruction of the enemy's strongholds. Our battle is to bring down every deceptive fantasy and every imposing defense that men erect against God. We even fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ."(II Corinthians 10:3-5)

The apostle Paul tells us that Satan has built "strongholds" - areas in our lives from which to influence us toward evil. These need to be torn down and destroyed. God wants you to identify those areas in which a distorted self-worth was built in your mind and then destroy them with the truth of your identity in Christ. God wants you to capture every incoming thought about your spiritual worth and reject everything that opposes the truth of your identity in Christ.

"God is what He says He is; I am what God says I am; God does what He says He will do; I can do what God says I can do."

### **Who Am I?**

**I am accepted...**

John 1:12 I am God's Child.  
John 15:15 I am Christ's friend.  
Rom. 5:1 I have been justified.  
1 Cor. 6:19, 20 I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.

**I am a member of Christ's body.**

1 Cor. 12:27 I have been adopted as God's child.  
Eph. 1:5 I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.

**I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.**

Col. 1:14

Col. 2:10

I am complete in Christ.

Rom. 8:1,2

**I am secure...**

Rom. 8:28

I am free forever from condemnation.

Rom. 8:31

I am assured that all things work together for good.

Rom. 8:35

I am free from any condemning charges against me.

Phil. 1:6

I cannot be separated from the love of God.

Phil. 3:20

I am confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected.

2 Tim. 1:7

I am a citizen of heaven.

Heb. 4:16

I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.

1 John 5:18

I can find grace and mercy in time of need.

Matt. 5:13, 14

I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me.

John 15:1,5

**I am significant...**

John 15:16

I am the salt and light of the earth.

Acts 1:8

I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.

1 Cor. 3:16

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

2 Cor. 5:18,19

I am a personal witness of Christ's.

2 Cor. 6:1

I am God's temple.

Eph. 2:10

I am a minister of reconciliation for God.

Phil. 4:13

I am God's co-worker (1Cor. 3:9)

I am God's workmanship.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

## **KNOW THE TRUTH**



**"...AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."**

# **WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?**

## **Discovering Your Spiritual Worth.**

**Pastor Lynn Kern**

## The Problem

One of the most common problems in our society today is low self-esteem or self-worth. It would be safe to say that most people struggle with it and many are crippled by it. This problem also affects Christians and the Christian church. Becoming a Christian does not automatically make a person realize their spiritual worth in God or overcome their feelings of low self-worth. A lack of spiritual worth in the Christian's life has limited personal spiritual growth and prevented participation in God's work. Does your Christian life suffer from this problem?

## "The Truth Shall Set You Free"

You may suffer from this spiritually crippling disease of low self-worth, which is caused by Satan's lies and our world's values. A major part of God's plan for your life involves changing your ideas and values so that you think and act according to the truths of His kingdom rather than that of this world. God is committed to re-programming your mind and heart in order to set you free from the lies and values of your old life. His truth must replace the deception from your old life. As you understand the truth about your spiritual worth to God and act upon it, you will experience a freedom that will enable you to confidently grow in your Christian life and participate in God's work.

## Having A Wrong Idea of Self-Worth

The problem of self-worth often is the result of people trying to live by a standard of value that is not God's standard. Satan has influenced our society with a standard of value that is based upon human judgment and performance; thus, attempting to get people's attention away from God and His standard of value. So then, the formula for self-worth is: the opinions of others and your performance in life.

## Self-worth=opinions of others & performance

This has become the standard by which most of the world judges our value. You are judged by what others think of you - popularity and how you fit in. You are judged by what job you hold, how

much money you have, how well known you are, where you live and what you live in, etc... "Who you are" as a person, your character and integrity, means very little.

## The Bad Side of Self-Worth

When people base their self-worth on a wrong standard of value, at least two bad things happen. First, they may fail to please others and live up to the performance of success that society has established. As a result, their failure will give them a greater sense of low self-worth. This, in turn, often leads people to find selfish ways to cope with their feelings and act in sinful ways. Second, the person who strives to be successful in pleasing others and in their performance in life may gain a false sense of value and importance. Usually, people have to change or compromise their true values in order to obtain success and be conformed to the values of others. Pride, self-glory, and a big ego can result as a person seeks self-worth based upon the world's standards.

Either way, this distorted view of self-worth can lead people to a life that is self-centered and self-serving. It often becomes their "savior and lord." They are ruled by the need for self-worth according to the world's standards and only find satisfaction when this need is met. Many Christians based their life on this distorted view of self-worth before they came to Christ and are now recognizing the need to change. All Christians battle with this distorted view of self-worth on a daily basis as they live for Christ in this world.

## Seeing What God Sees In You

As a Christian, your self-worth must be based upon what God thinks of you, according to His standard of value. Through His wonderful plan of salvation, God chose to "...show His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) *God loved what He created and had value (purpose) in us from the very beginning.* He wanted to bring us to Himself and make us His children. "For God so loved the world that He gave His Son." (John 3:16) *Jesus Christ came to be God's statement to us that we were valued by God so much that His Son would die for us. God could*

*not demonstrate His love and value (purpose) for us in any greater, more powerful way. You are valued and loved by God! Do you see the value God has placed on your life because of Christ? You received this costly gift of His Son by faith and now you are His child. Believe it and live as a valued child of God.*

## Christ's Death Declares Your Worth

Through Christ's death, God has declared that you are worth a great deal to Him. There are four words used in the Bible that describe your worth as a child of God because of Christ's death.

**Justified** - "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." "...having now been justified by His blood," (Romans 5:1,9a) *The word "justified" means to be forgiven and declared right with God.* As a child of God, you are made right with God and you don't have to meet certain standards in order to feel good about yourself. Do you believe that?

**Reconciled** - "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son..." (Romans 5:10a) *Reconciled means to restore the broken relationship with God, to be accepted and approved by God. As a child of God, you have been accepted by God and you don't have to be approved by others to feel good about yourself. Do you believe that?*

**Propitiation** - "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10) "...and we shall be saved from wrath through Him." (Romans 5:9b) *Propitiation means that Jesus died to fulfill the punishment and be the satisfaction for our sin. Jesus was punished for your sins instead of you so that you don't need to blame and punish yourself for your sin and failures. Do you believe that?*

**Regeneration** - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (11 Corinthians 5:17) *Though the word regeneration is not found in this verse, the meaning of regeneration is. It means that you are declared a new person and through the power of Christ, you can change. God gives you a new life in Christ in which you can*