

Our Needs: Acceptance and Worth

Acceptance: God-given need in every person, regardless of culture, nationality, gender, age, or race, to feel welcomed and received without fear of ever being judged, criticized, or rejected.

1. Reasons why we need acceptance:
 - a. Everyone is born with a need to be acceptable.
 - b. Acceptance allows us to experience community and fellowship with others, which gives us a sense of belonging **WE NEED TO BELONG.**
 - c. Having our soul-need of acceptance met is essential in breaking free from our flesh patterns.
2. What makes us unacceptable?
 - a. World: not agreeing with someone, behaving unacceptably, outward appearance, unacceptable by association (*all outward things*)
 - b. What makes us unacceptable to God?
 - i. Only one thing: sin nature.
 1. **Romans 5:18-19: Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**
3. Two systems for gaining acceptance: the system of law, and the system of grace
 - a. We're all born into the system of law.
 - i. Based on the achieving by self-effort or certain standards:
PERFORMANCE-BASED ACCEPTANCE.
 1. Equate acceptable behavior with acceptable self.
Performance-based acceptance: if I **behave** good enough, then I will **be** good enough.
 - ii. Based on the performance of fleshly techniques.
 - iii. The focus of our lives becomes **SELF**—what I have done and am doing.
 - iv. Produces self-righteousness.

1. **Romans 4:4: Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.**
- v. Performance-based acceptance comes with a price tag
 1. It lowers capacity to handle rejection, shame and judgment.
 2. Rejection.
 - a. “There are two types of people in the world—those who have been rejected and those who have been rejected more.”
 - b. When we are rejected, we then reject others.
 - c. Experiencing rejection without processing it correctly plummets our capacity to receive acceptance and also to accept others.
 - d. Rejection leads to shame. Shame=belief system that says, “I am a mistake. I am flawed. There’s something wrong with me.” It’s identity-based, and therefore can only be healed with identity-based Truth.
 - b. The world’s solution to the system of law and performance-based acceptance is: **SELF-ACCEPTANCE**. “Self-acceptance is the way to inner peace.”
 - i. Self-acceptance—by it’s very name—is still focused on **SELF**.
 1. The problem is not that people don’t love themselves enough. It’s that they love themselves so much it keeps the focus on self and their acceptance—or on avoiding rejection
 - a. I love myself so much that I want to protect myself from being hurt, from being controlled by others.
 - b. Disagreeing with me can cause me to feel rejected, so in order to accept myself, I will reject you first.
 - c. Even though I know in my head that God accepts me, I still need to **do** something to feel it
 - d. Having our own needs met becomes more important than accepting others
 - ii. Without Christ’s solution, people will stay on the treadmill of self-effort until they collapse.

4. God's way of gaining acceptance is the system of grace
 - a. Based on receiving by faith what God did in me through Christ (which is, forgiveness of sins and the gift of righteousness)
 - i. **Romans 3:21-22: But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe...**
 - b. Based on being righteous in my spirit and not with my performance.
 - i. **Romans 4:5: But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his *FAITH* is accounted for righteousness.**
 - c. He made us righteous by the death of Jesus.
 - i. Righteous="perfect, in right standing with God."
 - ii. The exchanged life: He exchanged our unacceptable state of being separated from Him because of sin, and He placed in us a new spirit that is united with Him.
 - iii. **2 Corinthians 5:21: For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**
 - d. He gave us a new identity, chose us to be in His family, and we are now acceptable and perfect.
 - i. **Ephesians 1:4-6: just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.**
 - e. Focus is always on God instead of ourselves and what He has done and is doing.
 - i. He becomes the measure of our acceptance, not ourselves
 - ii. Just simply being is what produces behavior
 - iii. We are able to rest in our acceptability in Christ and just **LIVE**.
 - iv. Christ's life is expressed through us and increases our capacity to accept ourselves and others.

5. In order to experience acceptance:
- a. There is a difference between being acceptable and feeling accepted.
 - i. As a believer, **YOU ARE ACCEPTED**. You are 100% acceptable because you are in Christ. The state of your being is of righteousness, perfection and holiness. It is done, it cannot be undone.
 - ii. There will be times when you FEEL separated from God, or unacceptable, but know that you are not.
 - 1. Most don't think they measure up to God's standard. They are stuck believing lies that they've learned in the past—that acceptance is based on behavior.
 - 2. God's standard is not behavior. His standard is Christ's Spirit, which is in you.
 - a. **Colossians 3:3: For you died** *[meaning your old spirit with the sin nature]*, **and your life** *[meaning your new spirit with His divine nature]* **is hidden with Christ in God.**
 - b. Sin **can** break your fellowship with God, because we shy away from Him when we're living in the flesh. And He will allow us to live after the flesh.
 - i. Sin is not powerful enough to destroy the redemptive work that Christ has done in you.
 - ii. God's acceptance of you never moved.
 - c. It is ok to want the acceptance of other people.
 - i. It cannot define us, or our acceptance becomes performance-based. God's acceptance is completely sufficient to meet that deep soul need.
 - ii. God's acceptance is what gives us the capacity to endure loneliness and rejection from others.
 - d. Believing you are accepted and acceptable to God is a choice.
 - i. Living as acceptable and accepted by God is the only thing that will allow you to fully accept yourself and will give you greater capacity to accept others.

Worth: the cost of a particular item. Worth is fixed

Value: the significance and importance of a particular item.

Acceptance speaks to your sense of belonging; worth speaks to your sense of value within that place of belonging.

1. Why we need to know what we're worth:
 - a. Understanding your worth is what allows you to feel worthy, and allows us to feel valued.
 - b. Essential to receiving lasting breakthrough and healing.
2. Most people at some time in their lives either struggle with feelings of worthlessness or feel that they are not valued.
3. How do you personally measure your worth
4. Apart from God, feeling worthy is all about **SELF**.
 - a. You trying to set your own price tag. You are trying to determine your own intrinsic value.
 - b. We can't determine our own identity, and we can't set our own worth.
 - c. Self-worth can go one of two ways: positive self-worth or negative self-worth—but both are still focused on "self."
 - d. Quote from internet: "Your worth is entirely up to you. You are worthy because you *say* you're worthy and because you believe it. Look within, and trust that you are enough."
 - i. This is an illusion and a lie.
 - e. Most common standard: personal accomplishment
5. There is a much better standard for us: God's measure of worth
 - a. **Ephesian 2:4-9: But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.**
 - b. God's measure of worth never changes

- c. Read Psalm 121 and Psalm 139
 - d. Worth=price; our price tag=is the blood of Jesus
 - i. **1 Corinthians 6:20: For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**
 - e. Value=significance and importance to the buyer; the Father paid the asking price for us because we are significant and important to Him
 - i. **1 Peter 2:9: But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**
 - ii. **1 Peter 1:18-19: knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**
6. The Father has made us worthy through Christ
- a. He made us His sons and daughters by the death of Jesus. We belong to Him as His children.
 - i. **2 Corinthians 6:18: "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty.**
 - b. He gave us a new identity, chose us to be in His family, and we are now acceptable and perfect.
 - i. **1 John 3:2-3: Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**
7. In order to experience worth:
- a. There is a difference between being worthy and feeling valued.
 - i. As a believer, **YOU ARE WORTHY.** You are 100% worthy because you are in Christ. Nothing you do will make you any more or less expensive to God. And nothing you do decreases or increases your value. The price was paid, and your value is set for all eternity.
 - b. Understanding your worth increases your capacity to handle lies.
 - i. Believing what God says about you is putting faith into action.

1. **Ephesians 6:16: above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**
 - ii. Feeling unworthy or not feeling valuable is not powerful enough to destroy the redemptive work that Christ has done in us.
 - c. It is ok to want to feel valued by others.
 - i. It cannot define us. The worth and value that God has placed on us is completely sufficient to meet that deep soul need.

Personal journal entry:

I am before you and behind you. I am in your future and in your past. As I chart your path, I'm also clearing it—not of the things that you would necessarily want, but of the things I want cleared. And I walk behind you, to pick up and heal the things in you that happened before.

I will give you wisdom and perspective. Wisdom for what's ahead, and perspective to accurately see what's behind.

*You are blessed wherever you go, because I have blessed you. I have placed My hand on your head as a declaration that you are Mine. You are heavenly royalty. You are clothed in the majesty of heaven. You were washed and made clean by My blood and I have given you a place in My family. An inheritance and a legacy is yours by rights. Because I love you. I love you and I died for you. And **it is MY PLEASURE to bless you.** To give you purpose. To heal you. To fill you with joy and love and peace. To awaken passions within you. To help you discover who you are in Me. To throw off the identity the world has given you. To break the chains of the identity you've given yourself. To move, live and be comfortable in the identity that I have always had for you. **I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.***