

ARE WE TO LOVE OURSELVES?

Introduction:

What is man? That is the question that has puzzled the minds of the secular world for many centuries. Even the secularists have a wide divergence of opinions about that.

For example:

- **Epiketus says: "Man is a fragment of God."**
- **Ralph Waldo Emerson says: "Every man is a divinity in disguise."**
- **Algernon Charles Swinburne says man is exalted: "Glory to man in the highest, for man is the master of things."**

Not all secularists have shared that opinion. For example, The Soviet textbook of Law describes man in the following way. (This shows what Communists officially think of man): "MEN ARE BUT MAD DOGS, rats, vermin, hyenas, dung and scum." That is not the most exalted opinion that I have heard.

- What does Jean-Paul Sartre say? "Man is a useless passion."
- Ann Carnell says: "Man is a grown-up germ, sitting on the cog of a wheel, in the midst of a cosmic machine, which is destined to ultimately blow itself up."

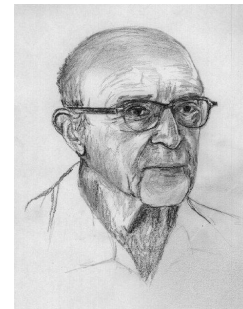
It is interesting that for almost 2,000 years Christian Theology has been GOD-CENTERED -- Theocentric. But in the last several decades, there has been a great shift that has taken place. Now it is becoming ANTHROPOCENTRIC -- man-centered. It is replacing Theology as the main focus of attention.

WHAT IS MAN? For our discussion on self image, Part 2 - What are we to think about man? How are we to think about ourselves? Are we to LOVE OURSELVES? What are we to do about ourselves?

Self image has become the overriding concern on the part of numerous writers. We are told that: The most important thing is that we develop a positive self image. We are told that: UNLESS WE LOVE OURSELVES, WE CANNOT LOVE OTHERS; that self-love is an indispensable prerequisite to useful living and to even CHRISTIAN LIVING in this world. Well, let's look a little more at where this comes from.

We mentioned last week that Eric Fromm¹ was one of the first pioneers to popularize this theory. There is another man that we would like to look at whose name is CARL ROGERS, a name which is almost a household word today. He is the practitioner that brought the theory into practice. More revolutionary than that, he did something that no psychiatrist or psychologist had done before. Hitherto, psychiatry and psychology were the domain of experts, from Freud, Jung, and Adler down through the list. It was to the experts we were to turn.

But now, Carl Rogers has created a tool which people can use themselves and which people can use ON THEMSELVES. With this tool, people can reorganize and transform their whole lives.



Carl Rogers

So this has resulted in a tremendous revolution that has been taking place in the last several decades of this country and around the world.

SELF-HELP CENTERS and SELF-HELP sections of bookstores are everywhere. Thousands of books on this subject have been written. They are everywhere. It has passed from Psychology to Education in the secular world, and now is SEEPING INTO THE CHURCH.

Churches are filled with this SELF THEORY of SELF-IMAGERY and SELF-ESTEEM. It has gone into the family and into government. Let us take a look at some of the basic concepts of SELF-THEORY.

¹ Eric Fromm was associated with the Frankfurt School whose purpose was to promote Communism. He promoted Socialist Humanism. (ref. The Frankfurt School, Marxist Internet Archive)

The individual, according to Rogers and others of this school of HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGY, is basically good. There is a reversion back to the noble savage. There is a return to the little child within -- to the time of innocence.

It is particularly a DENIAL OF THE FALL. It is certainly antithetical to CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY. In fact, Eric Fromm himself said: "If the doctrine of ORIGINAL SIN WERE TRUE, much of my theory would be untenable." My friends, I would like to put it to you this way: "Do you believe that the doctrine of ORIGINAL SIN and the

FALL OF MAN is true? If so, then much of this whole THEORY of SELF IMAGE today is untenable and FALSE.

It is particularly a DENIAL OF THE FALL.

According to the proponents of the theory themselves, sin does not ADHERE in the individual. Sin is to be found in society. It is society that is really evil. It is society that warps the naturally good instincts of the innocent child, the noble savage. It is society, tradition, government, family, and the CHURCH -- all of these -- that distort the individual. So, if there is SIN, it is not to be found in the individual -- in the soul and heart of man -- but it is to be found in THE STRUCTURES OF SOCIETY. It is SOCIETY THAT IS AT FAULT. ²

Do you remember when John F. Kennedy was killed? Who was to blame? Ah, we were told in numerous tones by knowledgeable psychologists that it was SOCIETY THAT WAS TO BLAME. Society had killed him. Well, this is nothing more than what CARL ROGERS had been saying for some time. He goes on to say that the individual possesses a SELF-ACTUALIZING TENDENCY. He is a missile with an internal guidance system taking it to its desired destination. As Dr. Paul Brownback so very ably puts it, man has this internal guidance system that will lead him to all that is good.³ Therefore, we are to trust our own instincts. We are to trust our own desires.

² If society is truly made up of 'innocent people' as this theory purports, then how did this evil and falsehood even enter the world?

³ If every man possesses an internal guidance system that will lead him to all that is good, then what happened to the guidance systems of Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and the like?

One psychologist that went through this and finally saw the futility of it, said: He supposed that if there had been a MOTTO for the ME GENERATION and for the SELF-IMAGE LOVERS, that motto would have been "WHY NOT?" If you feel like doing something, WHY NOT? Am I not basically good? Are not my instincts innocent? Am I not purely lovable? If I want to do it, it must be alright. If it feels comfortable to you, then that is fine. If it feels good, do it. Be yourself, let it all hang out. SELF EXPRESSION. Each person is his own best GUIDE.

It follows from that, that no one has the right to tell anybody else what to do or what not to do. Everyone has his own individual internal guidance system which operates only for him. Therefore, you can't tell me how to run my guidance system, and I can't tell you how to run yours.⁴ It would be like one missile trying to tell another missile where to go.

Everyone has his own individual internal guidance system which operates only for him.

Each has his own guidance system. Of course, it fails to take into consideration that the GUIDANCE SYSTEM IS FOULED UP! Now Christian Theology says it was fouled up by THE FALL. In the Motion Picture Superman, remember that Lex Luthor and his cronies crept up to the missile and re-directed its guidance system. Well, Christian Theology would attribute that to SATAN, but of course the modern psychologists say that it is SOCIETY THAT DOES THAT.⁵

Therefore, what we've got to do is simply get away from that and get back to our own primal instincts and desires, and all will be well.⁶ Then the internal guidances system will take over again. Of course, this will result in complete

It fails to take into consideration that the GUIDANCE SYSTEM IS FOULED UP!

⁴ This is an absolute statement, an oxymoron, and a contradiction.

⁵ Once again, if people are innocent and society is made up of people, then how did society become corrupt?

⁶ Man's primal instincts and desires are selfish -- they are "I will do as I want".

MORAL SUBJECTIVISM and RELATIVISM.

This led to Dr. Sidney B. Simon's Values Clarification. What is Values Clarification? It is that everybody discover his own internal guidance system, what is right for him, what he feels he ought to do. Nobody else can tell him what to do nor to teach him. Not the teacher, not the government, not God, nor anybody else.⁷ Of course, this is expressed in such statements as DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS.

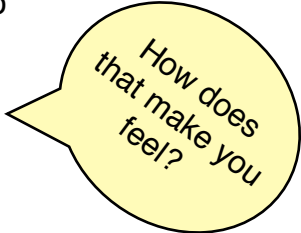
People get drawn into this deceptive way of thinking because they analyze it from a different perspective. For example, we all know that it's true that some people like knitting and some people like wrestling.

Some people like chess and some people like checkers. Some people like badminton and some people like football. But they have taken this to a different realm -- to the MORAL REALM. So that now extends from badminton to Bed Swapping.

People get drawn into this deceptive way of thinking because they analyze it from a different perspective.

There are no moral absolutes that are left. This leads to the fact that no person can JUDGE another person. You cannot impose your values or morals on another.⁸ This is the ONE UNFORGIVABLE SIN OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY.

We must not be JUDGMENTAL. That is what led to NON-DIRECTIVE ROGERIAN COUNSELING where the therapist never tells anybody what to do. He just simply reflects back their feelings and lets them discover their own internal guidance system.



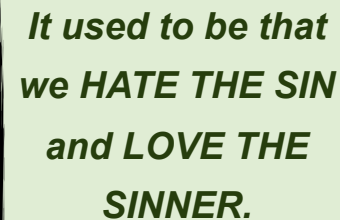
It used to be that we HATE THE SIN and LOVE THE SINNER.

⁷ This is saying that not even the Supreme Being Who created us can tell us what is right or wrong. However, when the theorist said "no one can tell us what is right for us", *he himself* just passed a law. He has now put himself above God and has made a law for all mankind.

⁸ Yet this happens everyday through propaganda. The Nazis did it, the Communists did it, and governments throughout the world are doing it today.

Well, even that won't do any more. Because, in order to hate the sin, we must make some judgment about what is sin and what is not sin. What is sin for you may not be sin for him. What is sin for him may not be sin for her, because there are no absolutes and objective moral standards written in stone by the finger of God. Everything is relative and subjective and individual.

Now we have come to the place that we cannot say *anything* is SIN because all those things we used to call sin are now VIRTUES.



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All this SELF-THEORY is summed up in one axiom which is the basic axiom of all this modern secular Rogerian Psychology. "I AM LOVABLE and therefore I should LOVE MYSELF."

Now, who is the "I" here? Are we talking about good people? NO!!! Any kind of people. Christian people? NO!!! Just any kind of people at all. When people are doing what is RIGHT? NO!!!! Just people at all times. It is not talking about people when they are sorry for when they have done wrong and are penitent? NO!!! It does not matter whether you are rebellious or not. **You are LOVABLE and you are to be unconditionally loved; and you are to unconditionally love yourself at all times.**⁹

Do you need to REPENT and CONFESS your SINS? Of course not. If there is anything wrong with you, it was imposed on you by society that has warped your basically noble, good, and innocent intentions. If you have indeed gone wrong, then you deserve an apology from society. It's their fault, not yours.

No wonder the Catholic Church reports a corresponding decline in the CONFESSION of SIN as the increase of this theory has grown. In fact, it is worth noting that in a California School System (Roman Catholic), Dr. William Kirkpatrick reports that there were 59 schools -- including a number of High Schools and many

⁹ This is saying that you should love yourself unconditionally, even if you are destructive. If man is so 'good' by nature, why does he even need a psychologist? How can he even say there is something in him that is not good if that is the case?

Elementary Schools -- that were run by 600 nuns. They decided that the modern educational experts in the church would bring in a team of Rogerian specialists for group therapy, group encounters, and SELF-IMAGING. They would enhance and greatly benefit the school system. They brought them in for two years.

What was the result? Where there were 59 schools, afterward there were two. Where there were 600 nuns, afterward there were NONE who were nuns. Obviously, there is something amiss here.

I'M LOVABLE and I MUST BE UNCONDITIONALLY LOVED. What is this based upon? It is based simply on the fact that I am human and this is based on my humanness. It is not based on anything that I do.¹⁰ I am to be LOVED regardless of what I do. It is not based on DOING but on BEING. So, to receive UNCONDITIONAL LOVE and SUPPORT, all I need to do is simply exist as a human being. It is a NO-PERFORMANCE THEORY. It does not matter whether I am good or bad.¹¹ ¹² I am to receive this UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. Of course, if the husband is to be unconditionally loved by his wife regardless of what he does, he may come around some day and ask the question: "WHY BOTHER?"; or would he be clever enough to think of that?

Whether I am valuable and whether I should love myself, are two different questions.

Therefore, since I AM LOVABLE, IT IS MY DUTY TO LOVE MYSELF. Whether I am LOVABLE is one question. And, if I am LOVABLE, should I love myself, is another question?

Whether I am valuable and whether I should love myself, are two different questions. You may purchase a very expensive and valuable automobile, but that does not mean that you should love it; like the young

¹⁰ But *they* said it is based upon one's internally guided missile system.

¹¹ Oh yes it does! One's behavior affects society. Look at Hitler.

¹² If one truly loves himself, he will want to look at himself in truth, lest he continue behaving in ways that are destructive to himself and to those around him..

man who spends all his weekends polishing it, and continually works on it until it becomes his whole life. But is it my duty to love myself as we are told?

In fact, they say it is a pre-requisite to my being able to love my neighbor, or even to love God. Yet, is this really true? We saw in last week's sermon that the commandment: THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, DOES NOT INCLUDE AN EXTRA COMMANDMENT TO LOVE OURSELVES. Jesus said: Upon these **TWO** commandments: (1) Thou shalt LOVE THE LORD THY GOD with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength; and (2) thy neighbor as thyself. Upon these **TWO** COMMANDMENTS hang all the law and the prophets. It is not upon a **THIRD** COMMANDMENT.

It is self evident that people love themselves in the Biblical sense of Agape Love which means to care for themselves and to provide for themselves. People do that naturally even if they do not particularly like themselves. **The fact of the matter is, instead of it being true that we are not able to love our neighbor until we first come to love ourself, just the opposite has been observed.**

Abraham Maslow, another modern psychologist and secularist, has some different opinions on this than does Rogers. Of any modern psychologist, he has done perhaps the most exhaustive data collection of scientific experiments in this area, not resting merely on theory. His conclusions, based upon the data, are just the **OPPOSITE** of Roger's. Far from being true that you are not able to love others until you are able to love yourself, **THOSE THAT DEMONSTRATE THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF SELF LOVE AND HAVE THE HIGHEST SELF ESTEEM ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXERCISE DOMINANCE.**

In other words, his findings indicate that for those who are involved in any relationships, whether husband and wife, two friends, business partners, or whatever: If one of them has a higher opinion of himself than does the other, the one with the higher opinion of himself will tend to **DOMINATE** the other. There will often also be arrogance and exploitive aspects involved. It does not necessarily follow at all that he will love the other person as he loves himself.

The example is given as to which person is more able to help the most people:

- (a) a man who spends all day long in a gym handling weights, developing huge muscles, and standing before the tanning machines admiring his biceps; or
- (b) a person who is poor and weak, frail and non-muscular.

I am not sure that the answer to that is so clear. It may be that such a person is more capable of helping other people. It may be that Arnold Schwarzenegger is more capable of helping other people than Mother Theresa. But it does not at all follow logically that he has helped more people than she has. The fact of the matter is, many of the world's greatest people have been people who have not been strong, muscular and/or healthy at all. Many have struggled with monumental problems. In fact it is also a FALLACY, because it assumes that there is no THIRD ALTERNATIVE.

I talked to a gentleman after the first service today who had gotten all caught up with this. He said that he found the more he strove to love himself, the less time he had to love or help anybody else, and the less inclination he had to do so.

It is the THIRD ALTERNATIVE WHICH I believe is the BIBLICAL ONE that I hope to share with you today. In fact, the idea is further stated in SELF THEORY that SELF-LOVE IS NOT PRIDE. It is not SELFISH. In fact, we are told that it is UNSELFISH, since they say they assume that until I first love myself, I cannot love my neighbor. Therefore, the most unselfish thing I can do is to LOVE MYSELF. It does not follow, necessarily, that loving one's self makes him more capable of loving his neighbor more.

Dr. David De Burns, who is the Director for the Institute for Cognitive and Behavioral Theories, stated in an article -- *Steps to Self-Esteem* -- that we must start treating ourselves better.

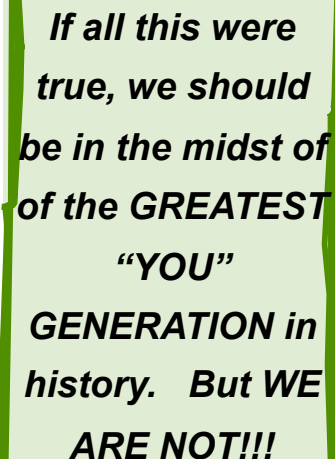
Listen to this, YOU MUST LEARN TO TREAT YOURSELF THE WAY YOU YEARN TO HAVE OTHERS TREAT YOU. I wonder if you actually heard what was

ACTUALLY SAID to you. Talk about a PERVERSION OF THE GOLDEN RULE!
THERE IS TRULY A RULE OF LEAD.

Jesus said: "All things, whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to THEM." But Dr. Burns says that whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do those same things unto YOURSELF. It is interesting also that the advent of IMAGE THERAPY, SELF-IMAGING, and SELF THERAPY that began several decades or so ago, has led to the production of such books as LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE. Now there is a person who has got it all together, who has got a strong healthy SELF-IMAGE. Is he real eager to HELP HIS NEIGHBOR (???) or to look out for number one?

Then there are books on ASSERTIVENESS - how to take that strong self-image and use it as a CLUB to beat other people into line. All of this has given rise to the "ME" GENERATION. If all this were true, we should be in the midst of the GREATEST "YOU" GENERATION in history. But WE ARE NOT!!!

I saw a cartoon in a magazine this week which showed a young lady saying to a young man: "I LOVE YOU", and he responded "and ME TOO". Isn't it wonderful?! In an ad in PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, it said in big bold letters: "I LOVE ME"!!! It went on to say, this is not PRIDE, BUT that I am just a good friend of myself. And, I like to do what makes me feel good. Just what Jesus said we should spend all of our time doing (or did HE???)



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It is interesting that through the modern Self Theorists -- and especially where this has crept into the EVANGELICAL CHURCHES -- the Evangelical Echoes of Rogerian Psychology are very quick to assert that this is not PRIDE, knowing that the Bible fully condemns pride over and over again. But is it or is it not PRIDE??? It is very interestingly that William James, a noted American

psychologist at the turn of the century, was very clear that such HIGH VIEWS of ONE'S SELF WERE PRIDE; and he is not a clergyman, but a psychologist.

Even more, we see that TODAY PEOPLE LIKE Maslow have said the same sort of thing. So, it is not at all clear that this is precisely that which the BIBLE CONDEMNS. Isn't it interesting that your secular psychology has NO CONCERN for a person having an OVERLY-ELATED VIEW OF HIMSELF, though the Bible says that: "*We are not to think of ourselves more HIGHLY than we should.*" (Romans 12:3)

The Bible has much to say about not thinking too highly of ourselves, which is PRIDE which goes before Destruction. And, the Bible has very little to say about THINKING TOO LITTLE ABOUT OURSELVES. It is just the converse with modern psychologists. Something seems to be amiss.

In the Evangelical world -- as this has seeped into the churches -- various Evangelical ministers are trying to find some Biblical basis to SQUARE THIS HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGY with The BIBLE. This happens over and over again with every wind of doctrine and change that comes from the secular world. There are those accommodators and compromisers that want to fit it all nicely into The Bible.

Then there are those that find the BASIS OF SELF-LOVE IN CREATION. Are we not created in the image of God? And if we are created in the image of God, we therefore should truly love ourselves. They like to quote Psalm 139 that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Therefore, we should LOVE OURSELVES. But, my friends, read the whole Psalm, the whole verse even.

Psalms 139:14: says: "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

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The fact that I am fearfully and wonderfully made can lead to pride, or to gratitude and praise to God. Now as a Christian, I am not questioning the fact that I am fearfully and wonderfully made.¹³ I am simply questioning whether the tenet “I am to LOVE MYSELF” is anything but a non-secularist that does not follow from that proper sequence.

We are to glory in God and praise His Holy Name, realizing that we do not possess anything independently of God.

If we are created in the IMAGE of GOD, should we glory in the image, or should we glory in the image Maker? We are to glory in God and praise His Holy Name, realizing that we do not possess anything independently of God.

We are not autonomous (independent of any other). For everything we have, we are entirely dependent upon God. Not only did He create you and me, but He sustains us moment by moment. Without the sustaining power of God, you would not live for the next second. The universe would cease to exist. We are upheld daily and momentarily by His Power.

Then they say that it is in REDEMPTION that we find the “secret” of our SELF LOVE. As one writer has said: Surely God would not give His Son for creatures of little value. Now that has such an evangelical ring to it that I would like to pause and take a look at it.

Does that not sound true? Surely, God would not give His Son for creatures of little value. Well, think about that. Your wife goes grocery shopping. She comes back with several bags of groceries. You inquire of her as to how much it cost. Of course, she has been to several different grocery stores, having examined the grocery ads in the different newspapers. She sought out bargains, she compared prices. She is a very thrifty grocery buyer. Then she tells you what she paid for the groceries, and you are overwhelmed with awe. You say to her, “My dear, I am greatly impressed

¹³ They are cherry picking here, taking a verse out of context to support their point that they are to love themselves. What about the Fall and their fallen nature? Our fallen state has marred *our* image of *God*.

with your amazing grace; that you so graciously bestowed your hard-earned money upon the grocers, that you so bountifully would give to them of your substance.” She would say: What are you talking about, you idiot!!! I got what I paid for. In fact, I got some bargains. That is not GRACE, that is good purchasing.

Do you see how this idea destroys the very concept of the Grace of God???

Did Jesus get His money's worth when He died on the cross???. If you think He did, you've got a problem. **No, Grace is the outpouring of God's goodness upon those who are unworthy and undeserving.**

One writer goes further than that. Cecil Osborne says: “There must be something truly wonderful about us if God can love us and accept us so readily.”

Do you not see that these secular theories turn Christian Theology upside down?! **Christ died for me. Therefore, am I not wonderful? Is that the conclusion that you reach???** Or, is it that **Christ died for me, is not HE Wonderful???** That depends if you see that His act is a pure act of Grace, or as a tit for tat. Just for that, get your money's worth. Jesus made a bargain.

Martin Luther knew it much better than many of our modern psychological evangelicals. He said it so well in his Fourth Thesis: **“God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because GOD LOVES US.”** If you get that turned upside down, you totally pervert the Gospel of Grace. God gave His Son, not because of what we are, but in spite of everything that we are. **God gave His Son, not because of what we are, but because of what He is, the GOD OF INFINITE GRACE. My**

“God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because GOD LOVES US.”

friends, to see our value, we do not look within. We look above. We look unto the Cross. (Romans 7:14; Galatians 5:16-18)

In Galatians, Paul talks about THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. He says that the Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE. Many of the Bible Commentators believe that all the rest of these

things flow from that Love. That is a LOVE TO GOD and a LOVE TO MAN. But this is THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT -- Love to God and love to man. The fruit of the Spirit is: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONG-SUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, AND TEMPERANCE.

In the passage in II Timothy 3:1, we are told that: *“IN THE LAST DAYS, perilous times shall come; For men shall be LOVERS OF THEIR OWN SELVES*

Look what follows from that: *covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, HEADY MINDED.”*

But the problem with those who have low esteem is that they struggle with fear.

Dr. Browndike says it well: "There are people who have problems thinking of themselves as NOTHING. People who have low self esteem, they are the introvertish types. Then there are the extrovertish types, people who have a very HIGH AND VAUNTED OPINION OF THEMSELVES.

You know something, those people get along a lot better in this world. There is no doubt about that. For the

most part, people are attracted to them, and in most situations THEY DOMINATE. But the problem with those who have low esteem is that they struggle with fear. The person with HIGH ESTEEM is struggling with PRIDE. He is probably in the MOST DANGEROUS POSITION. You remember the Pharisee and the Publican in the Temple? It was the publican with the low self-esteem that went home justified, not the Pharisee with the high self-esteem.

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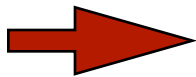
Luke 18:11-14

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not

as the rest of men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week; I give tithes of all that I get. ¹³ But the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God, be thou merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I say unto you, This man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be humbled; but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

High self esteem may be good for the ego in the 'now', but bad for the person in the long run.

High self esteem may be good for the ego in the 'now', but bad for the person in the long run. The Biblical answer is neither the EXTROVERT WITH HIS PRIDE nor the INTROVERT WITH HIS FEARS. We are to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. We are also to know that we are created in the image of God, and that image has been restored in the New Birth; that we have been redeemed and are now welcomed into the Family of God; that we are the children of the King; that we are the heirs of an everlasting Kingdom; that we are the sons and daughters of the Most High. Then we can just forget about that.



The focus in the Scripture is not on the SELF BUT UPON JESUS, and then on others. When we focus on Him and then on others, it will solve our problem of Self-Image.

Dr. Browndike said that his wife went to a football game. She is usually very reserved. But this was a very important game, and she got caught up in the game. The first thing she knew she was on her feet, jumping up and down and shouting instructions to the players, the coaches, and the referees. She completely forgot her rather modest upbringing. He said, what she had done is that she forgot herself and became involved in the game.

He remarked about a young man in the school dormitory at a seminary who had a group of young men around him. He was telling a story of something he was really immersed in that was really important to him. He was really animated. He was gesturing, and people were fascinated -- glued on every word he was saying. The

next morning he preached his senior sermon. Every eye was fixed on him in chapel. He forgot about what he was doing. He got his eyes on himself and thought "HOW AM I DOING? What does the professor think? How are my gestures? Will I remember my points? Is my tie straight? How is my theology?" And he was totally boring. In addition to that, he was scared to death.

Why was he so different the night before? Because the night before he FORGOT HIMSELF!! That is the THIRD ALTERNATIVE. Not EXTROVERTISH PRIDE, NOR INTROVERTISH FEAR, BUT AN OUTER-DIRECTED LIFE.

If we live a life lifted up to Christ to love Him with heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourself, we will not have to worry about all this PUMPING UP OF OUR SELF IMAGE. This is nothing more than a distortion that would finally make men to become LOVERS OF THEIR OWN SELVES.

We are in perilous times indeed!

My friends, listen to CHRIST and His Word. "Christianity", said the psychologist, "is not PSYCHOLOGY". BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU, ***IT IS FAR BETTER THAN PSYCHOLOGY COULD EVER HOPE TO BE!***

