

The Approval Addict (The Fear of Rejection) – Week 3

The Lie: “I must be approved by certain others to feel good about myself.”

“Our fear of rejection is proportional to the degree to which we base our self-worth on the opinions of others” (213).

Two possible options we can choose to determine self-worth:

- *The world’s system: self-worth = performance (what you do) + others’ opinions (what others think or say about you)*
- *God’s system: self-worth = God’s truth about you* (S. for S. 160)

How much of your life have you wasted trying to gain the approval of others?

Have you given up on experiencing God’s complete acceptance of you?

Is Christ’s payment sufficient enough to keep you acceptable to God for the rest of your life and beyond?

“We still try to obtain our significance the world’s way, through success and approval. Often we **look only to other believers rather than to Christ Himself. We learn to use the right Christian words, claim divine power and guidance, and organize programs, and yet so often, our spiritual façade lacks depth and substance. Our spiritual activities become human efforts lacking the real touch of the Master.** In effect, we live a lie...We can do nothing to contribute to Christ’s free gift of salvation; **furthermore, if we base our self-worth on the approval of others, then we are actually saying that our ability to please others is of greater value than Christ’s payment**” (69).

God’s Truth: Reconciliation

lit. “to exchange” or “change.” A metaphor from the realm of battle. “A restoring of a relationship to a former state.” A restoration of divine favor.

Galatians 1:10 For do I know persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ?

Colossians 1:19-22 For in him all the

fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20

and through him to reconcile to himself all

things, whether on earth or in heaven,

making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated

and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

22 he has now reconciled in his body of

flesh by his death, in order to present

you holy and blameless and above

reproach before him...

Jesus is the initiator of reconciliation (19-20).

Romans 5:8-11, 18-21

Before reconciliation, we are separated from God (21).

Ephesians 2:12 • John 3:19-21 • Matthew 6:24

Jesus reconciles us to God the Father (22).

Holy – set apart for God's purpose

Blameless – without blemish

Above reproach – no charge can be brought against

Romans 8:33, 38-39