

Principles Of Spiritual Growth – 03/01/20

Acceptance

TEXT – Ep 1:5-6 *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us **accepted in the beloved.***

INTRO – The Bible is filled with commands, warnings and principles by which we should live. How can to build upon our biblical foundation in Christ after we have been saved? There are basic principles that we must follow.

Maybe you had parents whom you could never please. No matter what you did, it wasn't good enough. If you got C's, they wanted B's. If you got B's, they wanted A's. If you got A's, they wanted straight A's. The tragedy is that some of you today are still trying to prove yourself to your parents. You're still trying to earn their acceptance, but, in all likelihood, you're not going to get their approval if they haven't given it to you by now because that's their problem. The good news is this: **You don't need it to be happy! Acceptance is a result of salvation.**

Psa 27:10 *When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.*

III. Acceptance

Many of us spend our entire lives trying to earn acceptance. We want to earn it from our parents, peers, partners in life, people we respect, and even people we envy. The desire to be accepted drives us to do all kinds of things. It can influence the kind of clothes you wear, the kind of car you drive, the kind of house you buy, even the career you choose.

A. Do you believe God has fully accepted you?

Many people struggle through life without certainty that God does accept them.

So what has God predestined? **Harry Ironside once said: God's predestination is that those who receive the Lord shall be like the Lord Jesus. That is predestination and nothing else is."**

Predestination has to do with the believer's future, not with their past.

Rom 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

Col 1:20-21 *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*

God loves you! John 3:16

B. Are you conscious of sins?

Adam and Eve hid from God after they sinned.

Eph 2:13-14 *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

He accepts us not on the basis of our righteousness, but of the cross of Christ. God is fully satisfied by the death of His Son and on that basis we are accepted.

C. You cannot find acceptance by your own righteousness.

William Newell states:

"To believe and to consent to be loved while unworthy, is the great secret."

"To refuse to make resolutions and vows for that is trust in the flesh."

"To expect to be blessed, though realizing more and more lack of worth."

"To rely on God's chastening hand as a mark of His kindness."

"To hope to be better is to fail to see yourself in Christ only."

"To be disappointed in yourself is to have believed in yourself."

"To be discouraged is unbelief - as to God's purpose and plan of blessing"

"To be proud is to be blind! We have no standing before God in ourselves."

"The lack of divine blessing, therefore, comes from unbelief, and not from failure of devotion."

D. Our highest motivation should be love and not fear

"Fear produces the obedience of slaves, but love engenders the obedience of sons." **J. W. Sanderson**

The Law made man's blessing depend on devotion;

Grace confers undeserved, unconditional blessing:

Our devotion may follow, but it doesn't always do so in proper measure.

2 Th 2:16-17 *Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.*

2 Co 5:8-10 *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be **accepted of him.** 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

E. Salvation means we are accepted

Act 10:34-35 *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is **accepted with him.***

1 Ti 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

F. We are special in His sight

1 Pe 2:9-10 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

1 Jn 3:1 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

G. We are secure in His hand

Rom 8:38-39 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

H. He is the source of all comfort and acceptance

Rom 11:33-36 *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*