
Introduction

One of the most astounding things I have found in New Converts is their ability to change. Equally astounding though is the feeling of low self worth. I have met many New Converts that feel like they are not worth much. A myriad of reasons can supply this feeling but the base root is low self esteem, no self confidence, and a poor outlook of oneself.

It's a good thing for us that God doesn't see us as we do!

In these next few pages I want to talk about the greatest love you have ever known. While I'm sure by now you are aware of who Jesus is, the fact that He died on the cross and the fact that His blood washes away sin, I'm not sure you are convinced that He did it for YOU. "He did it for everyone" you might say. True, however If you would have been the only one, I still believe He would have died just for you. You are that valuable to God!

Allow me to explain...

You Are Here X

As stated in the introduction, it is not uncommon for one who has recently become a Christian to struggle with a low view of themselves. One of the things that led you to salvation in the first place was seeing the sin in your life and knowing that you needed God to forgive you and change you. I have always found that alcoholics and drug addicts do their “poisons” as a means to medicate other misery in their lives. I have never met a drug addict who had a high view of themselves or an alcoholic who was 100% happy with who they were.

So the obvious fact is our lives are not always pretty.

Because of this, I have met many who hold themselves in very low regard. Many think they are worthless. Many have no self confidence. Many have low self esteem. Do any of these fit you?

When people feel this way about themselves it becomes very difficult for them to believe that anyone else could like or love them. No matter how many times you tell them, they never believe it. It also becomes common that you can say ten good things about them that they won't believe, but if someone says one negative thing they will take that straight to heart. Does this sound like you?

Go stand in front of the mirror. Go on! Take a good look at yourself. Now, *really* look at yourself. Look yourself right in the eyes. Do you like what you see? Do you love that person? Are you proud of that person?

If you answer no to any of those questions then you probably are here where I find so many: Unable to believe anyone can love you, much less love you enough to die for you.

But Jesus does.

God's Love towards us

Look what the Bible says in Romans 5:8. *“But God commendeth (showed) his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

God sent Jesus to show His love for us. Jesus *willingly* died for you. He didn't have to. He didn't deserve to. But - He chose to!

He has a love for us that is really hard to comprehend. We probably will never know the extent of His love toward us until we get to Heaven. However the Bible is full of scripture concerning His love. Allow me just to share a few, starting with a very familiar one.

John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

I John 3:16, *“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us...”*

I John 4:9, *“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”*

Are you starting to get the idea that God loves us? Think of one of your children or a child that you know. Now imagine a person that you know who is hateful, mean and not friendly at all. Can you imagine sending your child or a child you know to die for that person? Can you imagine sending your child to die for *anyone*? Nope, me neither. But that's what God did for us! Even though we were sinners, even though we were undeserving, and even though our life styles deserved the judgment of God, instead He extended His love toward us. No one is worthy of that!

Even at this you may still find it difficult to believe that God would love *you* that much. I'm sure you can believe He would love others that much, but not you. You were too bad of a sinner right? You've done too many things wrong. You aren't as good as some of the men and women in the Bible, right?

Let me give you a few examples of the men and women of the Bible.

- Moses was a pre-meditated murderer.
- David was an adulterer.
- Peter denied Christ three times.
- Paul murdered many Christians before his salvation.

Yet God in His love forgave each one and brought them back to a place where He could use them. Each of them lived for Him and did great things for the Kingdom of God.

In the John 8:1-8 we find the story of a woman caught in the act of adultery. This was a sin punishable by being stoned to death in those times. Her accusers brought her before Jesus trying to get Him to condemn her for her sins. Instead he said these words, **“Let Him without sin cast the first stone.”** The Bible tells us that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” No one there could proclaim to have no sin! Her accusers left and Christ showed how He views us when He said, **“Go and sin no more.”**

This is where you were! You were a sinner, condemned to eternal death in hell. But because you found Jesus, whom God sent because of His love toward us, you now have the ability to “go and sin no more.” This is where you begin to turn your life around!

Pay It Forward

Obviously you know without my even saying that we can never pay God back for what He has done. None of us would trade anything for our children; much less send them to die for a bunch of sinful, ungrateful, selfish and obnoxious people. There is no pay back for such a thing.

But what we can do is “pay it forward.” We can give our life for Him, just as He gave His for us.

Perhaps you haven’t thought much about the phrase “give your life to Jesus” as I’m sure you heard it at some point during your salvation process. But it really does mean just that. Your life is no longer your own. It’s now your duty as a Christian to live your life for Him!

Does this mean shave your head and sell flowers in the airport? Of course not. But it does mean that now you begin to live your life in a fashion pleasing to God. Addictions are a no-no. Sinful living is a no-no. Those things should have no place in your life any longer.

Now, you are always going to find those who will tell you that you can still do the same things you used to do. **They are wrong!** Going to the bars, smoking, drinking, cursing and swearing are all things that you need to begin laying aside. The great news is you don’t have to do it on your own! Addictions are hard to break. But, as you begin filling your life with the Word of God and begin focusing on pleasing Him, the old man will begin to pass away and you will continue to become that “New Creature” in Christ.

In the next pamphlet we will discuss praise and worship, but in this one I'm telling you that living a life of godliness is a great start to saying "Thank you."

Look what Jesus said, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works...*" (Matthew 5:16) Before the good natured church folk get to you, allow me to explain that this is not talking only about outward appearance, hair styles or related items. That is religion. We are talking about *relationship*, which is much more important.

When we truly begin living for Christ we will begin to take on His attributes and demeanors. Read through the gospels and you will see that everything He did was to please His Father which obviously is God. The places He went, the things He said and the things He did all were to glorify God. To live for Jesus is to become like Jesus!

As His Word begins to become a part of your life you will learn what is pleasing to Him. The sins and habits you used to have are not pleasing to Him. Loving your neighbor more than yourself, helping those in need, feeding the hungry, helping the poor, watching over the widows and helping the fatherless are only a few things that He would have us to do.

Showing compassion toward those who are still sinners does not entail doing the same things that they do. No! You are not like that anymore. You are to no longer do the same things as the world, but you are to show what He has done for you so that others can be set free as well. This is why the old habits must die, and you must begin living a life pleasing to God. By your example, others can and will see the saving power of Jesus!

In Closing

I hope now that you can see you aren't worthless. The devil is a liar and he will do everything he can to make sure you feel guilty and shameful for the things you have done wrong. But as we said in a previous pamphlet, those sins and wrong-doings are forgiven. The devil has no right to bring those to your mind. God has forgiven you!

If you were worthless, He would not have died for you. If you were of no value, He wouldn't have given His only Son to die in your place. God's love is far above what we can fully understand, but we know enough to understand that He does indeed love us as we are.

While you might not have been the best person, now you are a new creature in Him. You now have the rest of your life to please God. You now have the rest of your life to lead others to the same salvation, joy and peace that you have found. It's not your job, it's your privilege! Imagine if you had the cure for cancer. You would give it with joy. Well, you have the cure for sin and that cure is Jesus.

Begin thanking Him by living your life for Him.

The rewards are eternal.

Be sure and get the next pamphlet in this line of teachings!

Scripture for you

Romans 8:35-39

(35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

(36) As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

(37) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

(38) 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.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

1Peter 3:8 (MSG Bible)

(8)Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble.

(9) That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless--that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing.

(10) Whoever wants to embrace life and see the day fill up with good, Here's what you do: Say nothing evil or hurtful;

(11) Snub evil and cultivate good; run after peace for all you're worth.

(12) God looks on all this with approval, listening and responding well to what he's asked; But he turns his back on those who do evil things.
