

Real Self Esteem

Psalm 8

The secret of self-esteem is to see myself the way God sees me.

Ps 8:1-9 *O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who set Your glory above the heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen--Even the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!*

This Psalm teaches that there are three things that make me special in the eyes of God.

I. I have a God-given difference.

A. I am different in my relation to the creation.

Ps 8:3 *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,*

Isa 40:26 *Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.*

Isa 40:28 *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.*

Isa 40:31 *But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

B. I am different in my relation to the Creator.

Ps 8:4 *What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?*

Ps 8:1 *O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who set Your glory above the heavens!*

The word excellent means wide or large.

1. I am amazed that I have God's attention.

Ps 8:4 *What is man that You are mindful of him, ...?*

Ps 40:5 *Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.*

2. I am amazed that I have God's affection.

Ps 8:4 *What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?*

The word 'visit' means to care for.

I Peter 5:7 *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

II. I have a God-given dignity.

Ps 8:5 *For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.*

A. I can underestimate myself.

Bertrand Russell said," Man is a curious accident from a back water swamp."

H.L. Minkin said, "Man is a local disease of the cosmos."

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "I see no reason for attributing to man a difference in kind from that which belongs to a baboon."

B. I can overestimate myself.

C. I need God's estimate of myself.

1. God created man.

Ps 8:5 *For You have made him*

Ps 100:3 ...; *It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;*

2. God crowned man.

Ps 8:5 *For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.*

III. I will have a God-given dominion.

Ps 8:6 *You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,*

Ps 8:6-8 *You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen--Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.*

The word dominion means to rule over.

A. This dominion was given to the first man.

Gen 1:26 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

B. This dominion was lost by the first man.

Heb 2:5-8 *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.*

Man can never solve his biggest problems because man IS his biggest problem.

C. This dominion will be restored by the Second Man.

Heb 2:9-10 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings*

1. I will have dominion over the birds of the air.

Luke 22:61 ..., "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

2. I will have dominion over the beasts of the field.

Luke 19:30 saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose him and bring him here.

3. I will have dominion over the fish of the sea.

Matt 17:27 *Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."*

The secret of self-esteem is to realize that the one who created me is also the one who died for me.