



## Be Honest In Your Estimation Of Yourself

***"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." —Romans 12:3***

There is certainly nothing wrong with wanting to do your very best or to be the best representative of faith that you can be for Christ. It's only right that we serve Him with excellence without having a wrong view of ourselves! I always told my three boys: If it is worth doing, it is worth doing right... in Christ's Spirit and in His humility.

Some people view themselves as having no value at all and they want to remain passive spiritually. They need an eye adjustment. What about you? Do you have ambition to be the best, or to do your best in your specific arena of life, wherever that might be? Is it the good kind of ambition? If so, go for it!

The perfectionist *"has to be the best."* He *"has to be number one"* in all that he does—yes, top dog in all! He wrongly goes about trying to gain respect. Some do crazy things because they crave attention and love. Some view themselves as perfectly superior, like they are some kind of deity. But the stubborn perfectionist often has trouble accepting himself. He might have personal guilt that needs to be addressed. Many obsessively try to control others or seek the approval of some, while lacking any awareness of the deep pain they cause those closest to them. Many will sacrifice many good things just to strive for what they have to have. It's wrong—it's idolatry! Yes, the family of a perfectionist often suffers, because he struggles to obtain a perfect situation (as he would define it) above all else. There is nothing he loves or wants more and no one will get in his way!

God's Spirit will always respect a person's choices too, even if those choices are not the best. He won't make a person obey the Father or choose what is right. He will passionately reach out to those in love who have been brought low (by circumstances or by their own blunders) ...in hopes of rescuing them or fully restoring them and their true dignity in Christ.

There is hope! God can change people. The powerful grace of God lifts a man without inflating him, and it will humble a man without debasing him.

The person who has done the Father's will with excellence says, ***"By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain"*** (1Cr 15:10, nkjv). That person gives the credit to the Lord. He has peace and contentment inside, even in a chaotic world. Originally, it was the Apostle Paul who voiced those words and he consistently set a good example for us as he pursued the Lord. He never sat around navel-gazing, focused on suspicious feelings or taking any feelings as fact. He didn't settle for second best, but he waited for God's timing and provision instead of what the world offered for he had "helping others" in mind. He was a selfless servant and [an effective fisher](#), because he knew how to behave in private, in church and [with unbelievers](#). This beautiful ministry that he exported was a supernatural overflow due to a well-cultivated close relationship with Jesus Christ!

Do you value yourself by what you do—by how you perform—or by what you are in Him? Are you truly righteous in Christ or just trying to look that way?

You can be right with God today—you have a choice. Paul commanded: ***"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?"*** (1 Cor. 13:5:).

Hey, you can be either real or fake, but why chose the latter? You can either choose to see yourself as God sees you or you can choose to see yourself as the world sees you. Who will you listen to, who will influence you, whose opinion will you go with? Heaven will be perfect and Christ is the only way in.

Paul said, ***"Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful. What about me? Have I been faithful? Well, it matters very little what you or anyone else thinks. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. My conscience is clear, but that isn't what matters. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide"*** (1 Cor. 4:2-4, nlt).

I love what Michael Dixon said regarding Christians considering who they are: *"There is a sense that Paul simplified his estimation of himself by not focusing upon himself, because he knew in doing so that it would become a hindrance to achieving all that was possible for the Kingdom of God. Paul simply went for it! He knew a few basic things about himself: He knew he was a chief among sinners; he knew he had completely been forgiven; which led to knowing that he had completely been justified. When a person knows this, then all he or she has in front of them is obedience in reconciling men back to God. There was a sense that with Paul, once a great accomplishment had been achieved, he never looked back at it but replaced that vision with what God had for him next. If we focus on our achievements it will hinder us from accomplishing*

*greater achievements. Further, the wisdom in this is that it protects from pride and enables us to bear multiple upon multiple-fold fruit, which greatly pleases Him."*

Do you view yourself too much? If so, [be filled](#) or refilled with the Holy Spirit ...so much so, that you leave no room in your heart for any misjudgment of hubris or spite. I implore you to repent, to confess, to totally forsake your lifestyle of sinning—receive forgiveness free of charge! Give your life away ...to God. In fact, be perfect in your human spirit (see [Matt. 5:48](#)), but don't be a harmful perfectionist acting in the flesh.

When Christ soon returns things will be much different down here. We will clearly understand—***"When that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away... For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known"*** (1 Cor. 13:10 & 12, nkjv).

Paul's messages to us were perfect, and he used that word, "repentance." How often do you hear that word today? Hardly ever! OK Kurt, enough—what does that word even mean, you might ask? Well, it means to hang a 190 and be totally done with your own way of living, to follow His Way with full commitment.

*O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me, that He may fill and touch my eyes so I can see;  
Perfectly, perfectly clear that's how I wish it to be! Show me the truth of Thy Word so I can be free,  
and all that you meant and want me to be.*

Are there some things you still don't understand? Have you been a perfectionist or held to a skewed view of you? Is there a person in your life whose opinion really matters to you? Instead of defining who you are by their opinions, measure yourself by God's standard in His Word. Tell them about God's Word—Jesus! His opinion should matter most.

In the Fisher's mighty hand,  
Kurt



*When you get the time, you'll love reading the Bible verses above in their own context. It's wise to use the Bible to interpret the Bible.*

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