

Introduction: Understanding our search for significance

From life's outset, we find ourselves on the prowl, searching to satisfy some inner, unexplained yearning. Our hunger causes us to search for people who will love us. Our desire for acceptance pressures us to perform for the praise of others.

Our desire to be loved and accepted is a symptom of a deeper need – the need that governs our behavior and is the primary source of our emotional pain. Often unrecognized, this is our need for **self-worth**.

Since the Fall, mankind has often failed to turn to God for the truth about Himself. Instead, he has looked to others to meet his inescapable need for **self-worth**. "*I am what others say I am,*" he reasoned. "*I will find my value in their opinion of me.*"

SELF-WORTH = PERFORMANCE + OTHERS' OPINION

Question: In what or whom do you tend to find **your identity** apart from Christ?

Understanding your search for significance

Our attempts to meet our needs for success and approval fall into two broad categories: Compulsion and Withdrawal.

- **Compulsion:** Perfectionism, workaholism, driven to succeed, obsessed with our outward appearance, manipulate and use people for personal achievement.
- **Withdrawal:** Avoid failure, avoid risks, gravitate towards people who are comforting and kind. Avoid relationships that demand vulnerability. Appear easygoing, but often run from potential situations or relationships that might not succeed.

Result = We become _____!

= We become _____!

= The “real you” is never _____!

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Jesus came to set you free

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

John 8:31-32 (NASB)

“In Christ” you are...

1. _____ – Personally wanted, accepted, and appreciated by God, who is the most important person in your life.

Ephesians 1:3-4

2. _____ – God is your Father and has committed to protect you, provide for you, and cherish you as His child forever.

Ephesians 1:5-6

3. _____ – You have been purchased out of the slave market of sin by Jesus as His infinitely precious and treasured possession.

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:7-8a (NASB)

Message = The real you is _____ and _____!

*⁸ In all wisdom and **insight** ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.*

Ephesians 1:8b-10 (NASB)

Message = The real you is _____ and _____!

How to see yourself as God sees you

- **The principle** = Replace your “warped mirrors” and misbeliefs with the Truth of God’s Word.

Misbeliefs

- I must avoid failure at all cost. I must work harder and longer to be a success and prove I’m not a failure.
- I must avoid failure at all cost. It’s better not to try than to fail. If people really get to know me, they would reject me.



Worthiness Truth

“I am now a righteous person in God’s sight since I have trusted Christ’s redemptive sacrifice for me. I am covered by the robe of His purity and goodness. Also, since I have a new nature, I am a good person in my central practice of life as I continue to grow in Christ.”

Resources:

Affirmation Cards – Theresa Ingram

**The Search for Significance* – Robert McGee