

## Taking the Steam Out of Self-Esteem – part 2

### Luke 18:9-14

Up until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when we all of the sudden got smart, traditional cultures including the biblical culture always believed a high view of self was the root cause of most of the evil in the world.

--Why do people do bad things? Why are people cruel? Traditionally the answer was pride and arrogance and love of self.

--Our belief today is that people misbehave for the exact opposite reason--lack of self-esteem, self-love.

The Task Force on Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility began in California in 1986.

--Self-love, supposedly, was the answer to everything from crime and teen pregnancy to school underachievement and pollution.

--Increasing a person's self-esteem was considered comparable to giving out a vaccine for a disease.

--The Study ended ultimately showing that none of those things were true --The task force disbanded in 1995.

An article in the New York Times magazine several years ago by psychologist Lauren Slater called "The Trouble with Self-Esteem"

--She quoted three current studies which all reached the conclusion that "people with high self-esteem pose the greater threat to those around them than those with low self-esteem and that feeling bad about yourself is not the source of our country's biggest, most expensive social problems."

Nevertheless, the love of self or self-esteem is part of western culture's DNA:

### **1. It's as if no one bothered consulting the Bible on this topic:**

The Bible clearly states that the terrible times of these last days are directly due to self-love

#### **--II Tim. 3:1-2**

--We now have several generations of people in this land who have been deluded by this message.

--Lie of greatness that they have been sold and believing in their superiority has now been tested by real-world events and they have come up wanting

--They are now all victims, since the problems can't be their fault—so society has to shoulder the blame, their failures must be from something outside themselves since they are so wonderful on the inside.

--They live with a perpetual sense of importance and personal power and blame what's around and not what's in them for their failure to achieve.

### **2. No one, it seems, bothered consulting Jesus who had no self esteem**

Phil. 2:3-4—He never esteemed Himself, never promoted Himself; never loved Himself first.

--Jesus had a perfect self-image, and He esteemed His Father and He esteemed us!

### **3. No one, it seems, was able to see that Self-worth and Self esteem have one glaring problem "Self" –**

--God's got a big problem with "self" Luke 18:9-14.

--Which one esteems himself and which one knows his real image?

--When we teach our young people self-love, this is the fate we are assigning them.

--They have no room for blessings of God in their life: Matt. 5:3-7

Again, Nobody, it seems, consulted Jesus on this topic -- Lk. 14:11

**4. If we consult Jesus, we find that we have no self-esteem, self value:**

**Romans 7:18-19, Rom. 3:11-18**

--Ps. 139:14 – We are valuable because He made us!

--We are valuable because of the price He set on us: I Cor. 6:20.

--But we only have value in the context of our relationship with God.

--We only have value because He has assigned value to us, *but our valuation is not intrinsic.*

A Dollar bill has value, right? Why? Because we assign it value not because it has intrinsic value. It is paper that we have assigned value to as opposed to regular paper.

--Similarly, mankind only has value in the context of God and belonging to Him. Outside of God we are worthless. In fact, not just worthless we have a negative value. Eph. 2:1-3 “by nature”

--It’s not who we are but Whose we are that makes us valuable.

**5. When we consult God and His word, we find that God esteems selflessness.**

**--II Corinthians 5:15**

--Selflessness is the mark of a disciple Luke 9:23; Philippians 2:3-7 If we follow Jesus we will act like Jesus!

--Show me a self-absorbed person and I will show you someone who is not a follower of Jesus.

--A self-willed, self-loved, self-esteeming person is not like Jesus—they are like someone else we know: Isaiah 14:12-14

This is not what we are about; we are about forgetting self. II Corinthians 5:15

We are promoting actual disciples-- those who demonstrate by the way they live that they are following Christ. Phil. 2:3-7