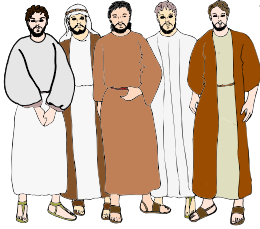




Compared To Who?



Most people do not have a clue about how valuable they are to God – and the esteem in which He holds them and the value He gives them. That's why Paul the Apostle spent so much of his writings just telling the disciples of Jesus who they were in Christ and how precious they were to God.



He knew they needed to know that before they could ever go out and share the Gospel with the world in the power of the Holy Spirit, with signs and wonders following.

Because Jesus was absolutely secure in His Father's love, He was free to serve in the lowest capacity of a servant, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands and that He had come from God, and was going to God, He arose from supper (His last supper with His disciples before enduring the cross), and laying aside His garments, He girded Himself with a towel, (which was the custom of servants) and He filled a basin with water, and washed the disciples feet, and dried them with the towel he had put on. (John 13:1-5)



He was showing them the spirit in which they should minister the gospel after He was returned to heaven.

1 Corinthians 6:17 says, "*He that is joined to Christ is one spirit.*" Knowing we are one with Christ gives us total security because that one spirit, the Holy Spirit, takes up residence inside of us when we make Jesus our Lord and Savior. We also need to minister in that same spirit of servanthood, just like Jesus did, portraying the loving father heart of God.

It has been God's intention from the beginning, that the human family would have a clear picture of what their real Father, their heavenly Father, is like. It was His intention that the parents in His human families would tell their children, and walk in the ways of God. Warm, secure family life was intended to draw us to our heavenly Father! Through godly parenting telling of His mercies, showing how He acts, how He responds and how much He loves us. That's how it was supposed to be.

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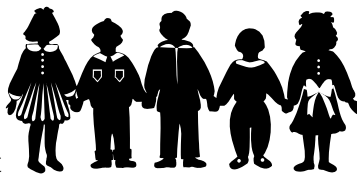
But, the devil has targeted the destruction of our understanding of the Father heart of God as one of His main strategies against us. That's why there is such a vicious attack on the family today. Hurtful experiences in the home are causing such bewilderment and pain that people are asking, "Why is God doing this to me?" not realizing that it is not God at all, it is demonic forces at work to bring doubt and unbelief about the love of God – driving them away from Him.



Children are suffering the trauma of family breakup – often with their ears ringing with the curses and violence of their mother and father. Untold millions of single moms are trying to raise the children because the father walked away, or became so violent she had to separate from him. These boys grow up without the reassurance of a father's strong guiding and affirming hand. As a result they may try to prove their masculinity through gangs or leathers and piercings, or they may abandon their manhood altogether. Young girls, deprived of a father's affection, do not know how to relate to a man and can easily misunderstand promiscuity as love and security.

It is also painfully necessary to speak of, and minister to, the epidemic of child abuse and molestation. Not until, by the grace of God, they can find healing by understanding God's true Father's heart can they see themselves as valuable to God – with their innocence restored, feeling new, not used.

Growing up, we are forced to accept the words of those in authority over us. Unfortunately, many well-meaning but poorly informed parents use the deadly tool of comparison to make the child think he should be. The compared with others as a up continuing to compare we still come out on the short try harder to be what they negative experience of being child, will cause us to grow ourselves with others – and end. We compare looks, intelligence, clothes, and talents as children, but when we get older, it's comparing houses, cars, financial status, rungs on the ladder of success, and even spiritual gifts!



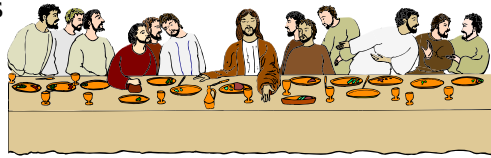
As children, if we were compared with our brothers, sisters and schoolmates, we soon began measuring our value as a person by how we measured up to others. Competition soon became a life and death struggle for worth! Such things as Little League baseball or football for boys, and gymnastics and ballet for little girls can be so competitive that it plants the seeds of jealousy that bear fruit in a lifetime of negative comparison and the struggle for one-upmanship.

If we don't finish first and receive a lot of attention, we feel like we (as a person) are a failure – not considering that we may not have been gifted in that area because God had given a different skill for the plan He has for our lives.

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Sadly, many (if not most) highly competitive people who fight and scratch and compromise their principles to reach fame and riches, find it empty and meaningless when they get there because they lack the security of being loved and valued for who they are.

Even the disciples had an argument over who was the greatest among them. You have to get this picture – it's almost unbelievable! They had just finished eating the Passover meal with Jesus. Passover is the high holy feast of the Jews! Jesus had broken the bread during the meal, telling them it was to be a memorial of His body that was going to be broken for them on the cross. And they had just finished drinking the cup of the new covenant of His blood soon to be shed and He also had just announced that one of them sitting at that table was going to betray Him unto death! (Luke 22:14-23)



But, they started arguing over who was the greatest among them. Not one word to comfort or praise Jesus! That's what happens to us when we are involved in seeking to be more important, or to be recognized, or the approval of someone we consider more important. The things of Jesus and the gospel are neglected. Jesus told them as they argued, that the greatest should be the least, and the leader should be like a servant as He had been. (Luke 24:24-27)

Paul said, *“For we dare not _ _ _ compare ourselves with some that praise themselves: but they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”* (2 Corinthians 10:12)



Compared To Who?

1. Why did Paul write so much about who we are in Christ?

2. If a person knows he is of utmost value to God, what happens?

3. How does knowing we are one with Christ give us total security?

4. How was the human family supposed to draw us to our heavenly Father?

5. What is one of the devil's greatest strategies?

6. What is the only thing that can heal the trauma of abused children and broken families?

7. What is one of the deadliest tools of thoughtless authority?

8. What do we begin to measure when we compare ourselves to others?

9. What can competition as children turn into as adults?

10. How can we know we are one with Christ? (1 Corinthians 6:17)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE _____

Compared To Who?

1. Why did Paul write so much about who we are in Christ?

We need to know before we will go out and share the Gospel.

2. If a person knows he is of utmost value to God, what happens?

The struggle is over and he is free to love and serve others.

3. How does knowing we are one with Christ give us total security?

Because the Holy Spirit comes and lives inside of us.

4. How was the human family supposed to draw us to our heavenly Father?

Through godly parenting, showing how He acts, how He responds and how much He loves us.

5. What is one of the devil's greatest strategies?

The destruction of our understanding of the father heart of God.

6. What is the only thing that can heal the trauma of abused children and broken families?

Understanding the true Father's heart and seeing how valuable they are to Him.

7. What is one of the deadliest tools of thoughtless authority?

Comparison with other children.

8. What do we begin to measure when we compare ourselves to others?

Our value as a person.

9. What can competition as children turn into as adults?

Seeds of jealousy that produce a lifetime of negative comparison and the struggle for one-upmanship.

10. How can we know we are one with Christ? (1 Corinthians 6:17)

MEMORY VERSE: "He that is joined to Christ is one spirit!"