

Do we sometimes think too highly of ourself?

The inspired scriptures warn us about holding too high an opinion of one's self. Note what the apostle Paul said in Romans 12:3 – *“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 so, to think as to think soberly, according as god hath dealt to each man a measure of faith.”*

With this warning in mind, I want to make a few observations that seems to be appropriate:

1. There has been much emphasis in recent years on the need to elevate self-esteem. Yet god's word indicates just the opposite – that man's problems are most often associated with thinking too highly of himself. It seems clear that the real danger for most of us is in an already too high opinion of self. In fact, all the warnings of god's word are about the danger of high self-esteem, not low self-esteem.
2. Too high self-esteem is manifested in a compulsive attention to 'me'. When we think too highly of self, we are constantly worried that my needs are not being met, my interests, my concerns, my opinions aren't being attended to like I think they should be, etc. Selfishness is the root of many troubles, and the modern self-esteem movement has amplified this significantly. -
3. High self-esteem prevents us from developing the humble heart of a servant that God so much desires in us.

Matthew 20:26-27 - our Lord said: *“Not so shall it be among you: but whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister; and whosoever would be first among you shall be your servant.”*

Having the right attitude in today's world

Psalms 118:24 – the Psalmist said,

“This is the day which the lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

This passage causes us to reflect upon an attitude that we ought to have each day of our lives! But how can that be? How can we have such a positive feeling of joy each day? We have trials, sorrows, temptations, heartaches, pains, disappointments, needs, etc. Can we have joy in the midst of all these struggles? Some may think it to be impossible, yet we find the key to such a positive outlook in:

I Corinthians 4:17-18 – Paul tells us this,

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while, we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but things which are not seen are eternal.”

Some quotes worth thinking about

“If folks did not carry gossip, it would not go so far.”

“Bad men excuse their faults; good men abandon them.”

“The road to success is always under construction.”

“Love will find a way - indifference will find an excuse.”

“What would you have if you woke up this morning with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?”

“Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.”

“We know what a person thinks not when he tells us what he thinks, but by his actions.”

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