

# I Am the Image of God

Gen. 1:27

Col. 1:15

In 5<sup>th</sup> grade he was at the bottom of his class. His classmates called him dummy. Surrounded by a lifestyle of poverty and violence he developed a violent and uncontrollable temper. With his mother never at home and several experiences where he attempted murder on some students he knew his life was in serious trouble.

A remarkable turnaround took place when the young boy was forced to consistently read books by his mother. He realized he wasn't a dummy. He pulled his grades up. He earned acceptance at Yale University. He went on to grad school and later became a physician. He was the first surgeon to separate Siamese twins.

He now is running for the President of the United States. This man is Dr. Ben Carson.

This is the power of healthy self-esteem that is driven by the Holy Ghost in a man's life. Ben Carson had every excuse to accept failure, apathy, and low living for his life.

Ben Carson determined to build his self-image and self-worth on the knowledge of God in his life and not by the Detroit inner city realities.

## How you see yourself determines:

1. The mate you choose for marriage.
2. How you react to life's pressures.
3. How you deal with relationship rejection and confrontations.
4. How you see yourself determines how you give and receive love from others.
5. How you see yourself determines how you decide to trust your boss, your spouse, or spiritual leadership.
6. How you see yourself determines whether you quit or stay in a difficult, hard project.

You cannot pray or fight in spiritual warfare above the level of your self-esteem or self-image.

- We filter our religious and spiritual beliefs through our own self-image filtering image.
  - a) Not realizing that at times we battle the wrong self-image within ourselves – which keeps us from experiencing more of the love and promise of God.
  - b) This self-image filtering system is built by 5 factors
    1. Our lack of educational background
    2. Our physical features
    3. Tragic or traumatized experiences
    4. Physical and emotional abuses
    5. Unhealthy and insecure family experiences

But true, healthy self-image is found only in God's declaration of who you are:

- a) I am made in the image of Jesus Christ
  - b) The real me or the real self-worth is not based on how ugly or uneducated I feel I am.
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- Self-image and healthy self-esteem is rooted in who God says I am by His Word.
  - From the beginning of time the devil has sought to distort and pervert man's self-image.
    - a) The serpent told Eve you will be like gods and your self-image will change if you listen to me you'll feel better about yourself if you disobey God's Word and quit the contrary. Adam and Eve's self-image got worse and they felt horrible about their worth when they disobeyed God's Word.
    - b) Suicide in America has risen 30% from 1999 to 2010. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds. In 2013, there were 41,149 suicides in the U. S. There is suicide in America every 13 minutes.
    - c) We even see a rise of domestic violence in the American home, especially amongst sports athletes. All because of people living a poor or wrong self-image of themselves.
  - 4 million women are beaten in their homes, annually.
  - Every ten seconds a report of child abuse is made to an agency in America. In 2012, 6.3 million children are investigated by state agencies for child abuse in America, according to the National Child Abuse hotline.
  - 1 out of 6 women have experienced a rape or sexual assault in the U. S. Every 2 minutes a woman, in America, is raped
  - 17.7 million American women have been victims of attempted or complete rape, according to Lankweb news and Forum.

The only answer to such disturbing statistics is to get brutally honest with ourselves and seek more of God's self-image knowledge for our lives.

- Let's define a healthy self-image from God's biblical point of view.
- Having Christ like spiritual qualities in my mental and moral attributes. Operating these qualities as a self-conscious, rational, personal agent capable of self-determination and obedience to moral and biblical law. (healthy self-esteem doesn't mean self-centered Queen or King)
- I claim my self-worth image by God's Word.
- You have to receive the Holy Ghost through repentance and speaking with other tongues to walk in the self-image of God.

- Paul said, ‘then you die daily of a vicious sin nature that seeks to defile and destroy your self-image through selfish living. Your sin nature seeks to pervert the divine image God says we have. But, I first must get honest to admit I have some self-esteem issues. Rom. 12:3, 1 Cor. 4:6
- You see when our insecurities interfere with our ability to accept who we are or with our social or emotional functioning it’s time to address this issue head on.

Read Matthew 23:39

- I treat people in direct correlation to how I see myself and my self-esteem.
- Only the Holy Ghost by the hunger for truth in prayer, fasting, and loving God’s Word can change my self-image.
- I serve others and I sacrifice all based on the level of my self-image. Read Jeremiah 31:3

Question:

- a) Do you feel irresistibly loved by God right now?
- b) Do you feel secure and cherished by God, in spite of all you live with and what you are facing?
- c) Do you feel loved?
- d) When I do not get honest and confront my self-esteem issues I will justify my temper and selfish tantrums.

- I’ll date and choose the wrong mates.
- I’ll have trust issues with my boss, my wife, and spiritual authority. I start wrestling with sexual addiction, drug addiction.
- I’ll get lifted up with pride when I have business and spiritual successes. I become overly critical of the behavior and decisions of others or I draw myself in my job or become covetous with materialism. Secular humanism says you can find self-importance away from God and His Word. This lie started in the garden. I am made in God’s image.
- Or I will refuse to take risks with life form a fear of failure.
- Or I’ll be jealous of other people’s successes.
- When I refuse to confront my self-esteem issues I will make excuses why I can’t be a team player. I don’t feel important in the church. I take criticism hard and I become easily offended.
- The devil uses low self-esteem and unresolved wounds to keep us from wanting things bad enough to fight for in prayer and fasting.

Read Luke 11:7-8, low self-esteem won’t do this

Read Luke 18:3, this is healthy self-esteem

Read Matthew 15:27, this is healthy self-esteem

- Some of us, like Israel fight the Egyptian slave mentality.
  1. I’d rather chill and live the way I’m living.
  2. I don’t want drama, so I’m not taking any risks.
  3. If I start trying to believe in myself I am going to cause family problems. I may lose friends. I just want to stay the way that I am.
- God told Gideon, “enough with your cave dwelling hiding out attitude.”

- I say you are a might man of God. Read Judges 6:15
- The Lord said, "Surely I will be with you!"
- The more Gideon listened to God and feared God the more confidence he received to be used mightily by God.  
Read Proverbs 14:26  
Read Daniel 11:32  
Read mark 9:24, I believe, help my unbelief.

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