

YOUR SELF IMAGE

2 Corinthians 4:4 AMPC

[4] For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds that they should not discern the truth, preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the Image and Likeness of God.

Who is the god of this world? Satan right? Based on this verse what is seeking to do to unbelievers? Blind them right? He seeks to blind them from what else? From the light of the Gospel!

And based on this verse who is the Gospel?

IT'S THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF JESUS CHRIST!!!

This tells me you and I cannot find our real self image until we find the image of Jesus Christ! If I am going to find out who I am I must go to God! We struggle with self image because we either are ignorant of what His image means, or we flat out don't believe this is our true self image!

You must be what God tells you to be. Like these images can you imagine making a boat out a car. That's what we do spiritually with our self image when we try to use our skill set and talents outside of the image of Jesus Christ. Look at your neighbor and tell them God did not make you this way. Can you imagine living in a house like this. Planes were not made for this. This is why we battle so much fear when it's time to become vulnerable with each other. Starting with me. All because we try to hear preaching and apply faith with poor or flat out wrong self images of ourselves.

Many times we do not even know we are doing this until the spirit of God or His Word speaks to us. You cannot believe God for your life outside of walking in His image He said you must have. This is one reason people wear mask, to conceal or mask pain or the real authentic you.

You see our real self image must come from Jesus Christ, because you were made in God's image, which is the man Christ Jesus!

Romans 8:29 AMPC

[29] For those whom He foreknew of whom He was aware and loved beforehand, He also destined from the beginning foreordaining them to be molded into the image of His Son and share inwardly His likeness, that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.

The concept of the word, "SON", means, "THE IMAGE OF THE FATHER".

There are two important teaching truths we have to understand in order to take on the image of Jesus Christ as our self image!

We must accept and believe this image by replacing it with our wrong self image. The Apostles had to wake up the Word on the boat or they were going to die. With intentionality you have to wake up the Word and replace old poor self image with this image in a personal way. Our problem is we don't know what that looks like at times, or we reject this Christ image because we rather hold onto our old self image. Our image comes from the cross, which leads to the second point.

We have to practice sacrificial dying daily in a relational way. This is the image of Christ. When you practice His likeness now you are making that image a character lifestyle.

Colossians 3:1-16 AMPC

1] IF THEN you have been raised with Christ to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead, aim at and seek the rich, eternal treasures that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Do you see the self image of Christ here?

[2] And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the Earth. [3] For as far as this world is concerned you have died, and your new, real life is hidden with Christ in God.

Again this is our real true self image. We have to see Christ correctly or we will not see offenses and hurts correctly, nor will we survive temptations to the flesh correctly.

4] When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in the splendor of His glory. [5] So kill (deaden, deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

This is telling us what the cross and Christ image requires of us. Because of the cross there is a power released to us to perform these things. We are a product of His work. So when I am not rooted without compromise to the right image I begin to fight God. That's why people can shout in church and still go back out and cannot maintain intimate long term relationships. The cross image is not their foundation for their own self image. Look at **verse six**.

6] It is on account of these very sins that the holy anger of God is ever coming upon the sons of disobedience (those Who are obstinately opposed to the divine will), [7] Among whom you also once walked, when you were living in and addicted to such practices. This is practicing sacrificial dying.

This is how you are measured for having a healthy self image. Look at **verse 8**.

8] But now put away and rid yourselves completely of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses And slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips! [9] Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices, [10] And have clothed yourselves with the new spiritual self, which is ever in the process of being renewed and remodeled into fuller and more perfect knowledge upon knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it. [11] In this new creation all distinctions vanish.

Now Paul tells us we are all on the same playing field when it comes to the importance of ministry in **verse 11**.

[11] There is no room for and there can be neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, nor difference between nations whether alien barbarians or Scythians who are the most savage of all, nor slave or free man; but Christ is all and in all everything and everywhere, to all men, without distinction of person.

[12] Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), who are purified and holy and well-beloved by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, and patience which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper. [13] Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily

pardoning each other; even as the Lord has freely forgiven you, so must you also forgive. [14] And above all these put on love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony. 15] And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state to which as members of Christ's one body you were also called to live.

WITHOUT EMBRACING THIS IMAGE WE BECOME EASILY DISTRACTED BY MANY MANY THINGS! Because we try to get our value from cheap things, or quick feel good entertainment. We get broken focus because we rarely wake up the Word to redirect our old image to His image.

Look at the rest of *verse 15*.

And be thankful (appreciative), giving praise to God always. This is how we become the word. In thankfulness in our private thoughts and inner thinking. 16] Let the word spoken by Christ (the Messiah) have its home in your hearts and minds and dwell in you in all its richness, as you teach and admonish and train one another in all insight and intelligence and wisdom in spiritual things, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to God with His grace in your hearts.

Let's thank God for his Word right now!

Let me show you how to wake up the Word in you to redirect your self image to His image:

Then David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and be courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, is with you He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished. 1 Chron. 28:20

Deuteronomy 31:6 AMPC

[6] Be strong, courageous, and firm; fear not nor be in terror before them, for it is the Lord your God Who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you.

This next verse tells us how to pray for one another.

Exodus 24:6-8 AMPC

[6] And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. [7] Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people; and they said, All that the Lord has said we will do, and we will be obedient. [8] And Moses took the remaining half of the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.

Ephesians 5:14 AMPC

[14] Therefore He says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine (make day dawn) upon you and give you light.

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