

## A Proper Love For Self

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Matthew 22:37-39

### Introduction

1. The classic text above demands a threefold love.
  - a. The first and strongest Object of our love is GOD. From this starting point, one has the foundation for all other healthy, loving relationships.
  - b. We are charged to love our fellow man. In fact our love for fellow man is reflective of our love for God (1 John 4:20, 21).
  - c. This passage also teaches that it is proper to love self.
2. Love is a thread that runs throughout God's Word from Genesis to Revelation.

#### I. Do you value yourself?

- A. There are, of course, those who are in love with themselves too much (1 Timothy 3:1, 2).
  1. This is unhealthy and unpleasant (for others especially). We can exalt without inflating, and we can humble without debasing.
  2. We must not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to (Romans 12:3). People sadly go to unhealthy lengths to conceal the feelings about themselves.
  3. The way you regard compliments reflects your value of self.
    - a. Those who don't value self find it hard to accept compliments.
    - b. Those who don't have a proper value of self find it hard to give compliments.
- B. Accessing You Value Of Self
  1. Realize God's amazing love for man (John 3:16).
  2. Look at Paul as an example of humble confidence (1 Corinthians 11:1).
  3. Consider how Paul, Silas and Barnabas dealt with rejection (Acts 15:36-41).
  4. If we don't love self, it is impossible value your wife (Ephesians 5:28ff), your neighbor, or your God.
  5. Have you ever viewed the parable of the talents through the framework of self-confidences (Matthew 25:14ff)?

#### II. What do you value about yourself?

- A. Valuing only the external will lead to dead ends.
  1. Solomon surrounded himself with things to feel true worth, but that strategy failed (see Ecclesiastes 12:13).
  2. This world holds no lasting value (1 John 2:15-17; James 1:14). Note what the Devil has to offer (Matthew 4:1-11).
- B. We must regard our soul as our most valuable possession (Mark 8:36).
  1. Those who do not properly regard their soul will turn to false benchmarks of value (i.e. Materials, sexual appeal, etc.).
  2. God's view of matters are different from (1 Samuel 16:7, 12).
  3. Don't value the unvaluable.

