



Acceptance

Most people long for acceptance, a sense of value. They desire to be included, loved, and approved of as they are, no matter what.

God accepted us while we were yet sinners, as well, his acceptance of us never wains. We could hardly expect love if we are not loving. We could hardly expect acceptance if we do not accept ourselves. God defies our logic through his impartial love and acceptance. Let us defy our logic by loving and accepting ourselves.

(Rom 5:8 KJV) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Christ died for us and we were in a 'sinner' state.

Jesus didn't allow the disciples to reject the children, what they were trying to do. He demanded love.

(Luke 18:16 KJV) But



Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

“There may be nothing that brings greater joy to the human heart than for another person to know all your faults and failures and accept you anyway, as you are, win or lose, no strings attached. Being approved of, accepted, and included sets us free to be vulnerable about what is broken and painful in our lives and helps us connect and really engage with others.” P.21.**

You can't buy this kind of person or demand that some-

one change and become this just for you; God has to provide him or her to you.

In this World:

(Rom 12:1-2 KJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

In this world, a great religious service is required of us: we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. Love is a two-way street. All that we do along these lines is sacrificial. It's not easy. Life churns around the pilings of godly service; we are to yield ourselves to God.

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By doing so, our living, holy and acceptable life becomes proof to all others that we believe in our acceptance—that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. We prove to the world, family, friends, co-workers, and all others that we've been transformed, that we live according to God's Will. The renewed mind is summed up in this—for all the world to see, believe that God accepts you; in turn, accept yourself.

Acceptance Defined:

(Eph 1:5-7 KJV) Having predestinated us unto the adoption [sonship] of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, {6} To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. {7} In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Accordingly, God has made us accepted in our beloved Christ. Acceptance was made available through re-

demption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, but most notably God's grace.

Proving Acceptance:

(Eph 5:8-11 KJV) For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are* ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: {9} (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) {10} Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. {11} And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Romans provided the 'proving' doctrine; Ephesians provided the 'proving' practice.

Walk as children of light in spiritual goodness, righteousness and truth. Prove acceptance. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, reprove them. Here, we *aren't* told to have no fellowship with evil people (although we'll often take a sharp turn toward leaving corrupt associations far behind); we are told to have no fellowship with the unfruit-

ful works of darkness. Tremendous emphasis is placed on activities, works, a practical walk—even more so, reproof words that indicates the presence of evil people.

First and Foremost—Grace:

(Heb 12:28 KJV) Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

On our 'acceptance' journey, grace is our guest and must be offered front seat, so to speak. Abounding grace allows acceptable godly service; it allows true reverence and godly fear.

Patience in Well-doing:

(1 Pet 2:20 KJV) For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God.

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Even if you are buffeted for your faults and suffer, take it patiently. Why? This is acceptable with God.

Key words and activities:

Redemption, forgiveness, grace, acceptance, no evil associations. Reprove evil works of darkness.

We must bring 'acceptance' full circle in order to receive its full impact in our more than abundant life walk.

- Acceptance is defined by redemption, forgiveness and the riches of God's grace.
- Christian doctrine requires that we prove belief in and manifestation of acceptance. As children of light and with the help of spiritual fruit, we are to practice proving acceptance. Stop all associations with works of darkness. Reprove evil works of darkness.
- Abide in God's grace.
- Practice well-doing, even when buffeted for having faults.

Much Love in Christ,

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** *Free To Thrive*, McDowell and Bennett