

A PROPER EVALUATION OF MYSELF

(Romans 12:3)

...Today we hear much about the sub-prime mortgages and all the fallout associated with it. Part of the problem seems to be that the appraisers over estimated the value of some homes, which allowed people to get into homes with big mortgages that they could not afford.

...It is one thing to estimate the worth of a home, it is another thing to estimate yourself. Far too many Christians have an inflated view of themselves. Remember, pride is the Devil's sin. (Isaiah 14)

...In Romans 12, Paul is calling us to "1st things 1st." In verses 1-2, we are to have a right relationship with God. Now, in v. 3, he calls us to a proper estimation of ourselves. He will close, calling us to have right relations with others.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT OUR SELF-WORTH, BUT ONLY ONE PLEASURES THE LORD.

I. We Are Wrong When We Think Too Highly Of Ourselves. Reject this sinful mindset!

- A. In our text, Paul uses in the original writing the word "think" four times.
...After offering our bodies and minds in worship to God, we are to think making a right estimate of all things. Exercise your renewed mind in this way...
- B. There are two possible errors in this kind of self-evaluation.
 1. We think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think.
...this is the most dangerous of the two, because it is the one that comes to us most naturally. The reason it does, is that it is linked to pride. (The 1st of the Deadly Sins)
 - a. The truth is, "almost everyone thinks more highly of himself than he ought, and we also want other people to have the same exalted opinion of us."
 - b. How do we do this? How do we have this sinful thinking?
 - (1) Some, due to their birth, family, wealth, and achievement...
 - (2) Some, even as Christians, have pride in knowing some leader, or in their church or denomination.
 - (3) Others, due to their exceptional education. Smarter than...?
 - (4) Still others, because they have been given usual power/postions.
 2. Some of us think too lowly of ourselves...which is a false humility.
 - a. This is really pride, because we are really looking for praise from others...
 - b. Yet, there are some who really do have a low self esteem and need to have proper one. We find this, not by pop psychology, but recognizing that we are made by God and for Him to do good works. (Eph 2:10)

II. We Please The Lord When We Think Of Ourselves With Sober Judgment.

...Our problem is that we usually think about ourselves too much. Paul's solution is not to stop thinking about ourselves entirely, rather to start thinking about ourselves "with sober judgment and in accordance with "the measure of faith."

- A. A pastor tells what it means to think of ourselves with sober judgment:
 1. "I am made in the image of God, I am not an animal and I don't behave like an animal. I have the capacity to respond and relate to God...
 2. I am filled with the Holy Spirit. I have the power of God working within me. God is at work within me through the problems and pressures I go through...
 3. I am part of the plan of God. What I do today has purpose, significance and meaning. This is not a meaningless day. Even the smallest incident, the most insignificant word or relationship is involved in His Great Plan."
...This gives us confidence, but without conceit. No vanity here. Sober!!!
- B. We are to think with "the measure of faith God has given."
 1. This involves what each one of us is uniquely. We each have different God given gifts and talents. "Faith" here is not saving faith, but the trust we have in God to use the gifts he has given to us. This is function within the body...
 2. So genuine humility has to do with the spiritual gifts that God has given to us...to take them seriously, and begin to use them for God.

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: