



# "Desperate for Acceptance and Approval"

Pastor Paul Taylor/August 30, 2009

(All Scriptures NIV)

**Insecure people are always afraid.** At the heart of our fear, is a deep sense of inadequacy; we don't really believe we are really loveable or valuable.

**Why is this true?** It's part of the curse of original/inherited sin. On the most basic level, I have a sin problem. **Psalms. 51:5,** Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**Everybody is desperate for acceptance and approval.** The pursuit of approval it is a root motivation for everything we do. We cannot give ourselves approval & acceptance. It must come from outside of ourselves.

- Children need the unconditional love and acceptance of a mother.
- A father affirms a child's manhood or womanhood.
- Parents have trouble giving approval if they never received it from their parents.
- We all crave *approval* which = an \_\_\_\_\_, knowing we \_\_\_\_\_, and feeling \_\_\_\_\_.
- **I Corinthians 13:2-3,** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but *have not love, I am nothing.* 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but *have not love, I gain nothing.*

**The world says you must work for approval.** It says I am not valued or acceptable unless I do something to earn it, then I can be accepted. All false world religions are based on earning then being granted approval.

**THE TRUTH-** \_\_\_\_\_ can EVER see my true value.

**Rom. 5:6-9,** You see, at just the right time, *when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.* 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

- **Illustration:**
- Only He values us in our raw, unrefined form.
- Only He has loved us from the beginning and in love has sustained us.
- Only He sees what we can become in his hands.
- Only He begins his relationship to us with love and acceptance.
- **BUT THE DOOR to His acceptance comes by first accepting his love by faith in Jesus Christ ALONE!** (John 10:9)

**God's approval and acceptance is given at the beginning of the relationship, not the end.** What gets me here, and keeps me here is the righteousness of Jesus Christ paying for my sins.

- **John 3:16-18,** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that *whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son*

**How do I live in God's acceptance & approval?**

- **God doesn't play favorites.** **Acts 10:34-35,** Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 *but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.*
- **Let God the Father forgive you through the cleaning blood of Jesus his Son.**
  - **Ephesians 5:1-2,** Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (2 Corinthians 5:14)

- Value Him; relate to Him as a real person-the only true God. (Psalms 62:8, Psalm 142:1-2)
- Live a grateful lifestyle; appreciate what he does for you. (Hebrews 13:15, Psalms 50:23)
- Those who love God obey Him. (Deuteronomy 5:10, John 14:23-24)
- Repent from running after the wrong approval. (Isaiah 55:7)
- Practice loving, accepting and affirming other people (1 John 3:23-24, John 13:34-35)

**Today's Bottom-line: We finally believe that God accepts & approves of me in Jesus.** To the degree to which I believe and live in this truth, is the degree I can become secure.

What is the Holy Spirit speaking to me personally today?: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_