

Connection Group Homework

1. Why do people have a basic desire for personal significance? Why does mankind wrestle with the basic questions of “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?”
2. How does the fear of being rejected (disapproved of) by others affect people’s lives?
3. Can you recall examples of specific instances when others (friends, co-workers, family members) have withheld approval or used criticism, silence, sarcasm, or praise to manipulate you into doing what they wanted you to do? What did they say or do? Did they succeed? Why or why not?
4. What difference would it make in your life (your attitudes, relationships, goals, etc) if you grasped the reality that your worth is not conditional (not based on your performance, possessions or other’s opinion of you) but based on the truth of the unconditional love, forgiveness and acceptance of God?
5. Whose opinion of you do you value most? What is your most common response to that person?
6. Think of the person who you know loves you most. How does that person’s love make you feel?
7. Read **Romans 3:19-28; 4:4, 5; 5:1-11**. What does it mean to be justified?
8. Read **II Corinthians 5:21, Colossians 1:22, 3:12** and **Hebrews 10:14**. Are you as righteous, holy and blameless as Christ? Why or why not?



Searching for Justification

1. _____

False Belief - I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.

Luke 18:10-12 “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a dishonest tax collector. The proud Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat, I don’t sin, I don’t commit adultery, I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’”

2. _____

False Belief - I must have certain possessions or attributes to feel good about myself.

Luke 12:15 “Then he said, ‘Beware! Don’t be greedy for what you don’t have. Real life is not measured by how much we own.’”

3. _____ **Opinion**

False Belief - I must be approved (accepted) by certain people to feel good about myself.

Jer. 1:8a “Do not be afraid of their faces.”

Ex. 32:21 “After that, he turned to Aaron. ‘What did the people do to you’ he demanded. ‘How did they ever make you bring such terrible sin upon them?’”

Finding Your Justification

1. **Discover your** _____ **in God.**

Gen. 1:27 “So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

1 Pet. 1:18-19 “...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

2. **Accept your** _____ **in Christ.**

Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Col. 1:21-22 “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—”

Eph. 1:6b-7 “...He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

1 Pet. 3:14-15 “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. ‘*And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.*’ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

3. **Live before an** _____ **of One.**

1 Cor. 4:3-4 “But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.”

*Unless otherwise noted all Scriptures are from the
New King James Version*