

The Sense of Inferiority vs. Abiding in the Love of God

by Bryan Anthony

Bryan Anthony's sermon emphasizes overcoming feelings of inferiority by abiding in the profound love of God.

Scripture: Psalm 46:10, John 5:44, John 15:9, Romans 8:38, Ephesians 1:6, Ephesians 2:4, Ephesians 3:17, Colossians 3:12, 1 John 4:18-19

Topics: "Gods Love", "Self Acceptance"

Description

Bryan Anthony preaches on the chronic sense of inferiority plaguing the Church, emphasizing the need for believers to be built up in the reality of God's love and accepted in the Beloved. He highlights how the powers of darkness strive to hinder believers from experiencing God's favor and love, leading them into a constant pursuit of worldly acceptance and approval. Anthony urges believers to seek a deeper understanding and awareness of God's love, emphasizing that His love is not based on performance but on His compassionate nature. He encourages believers to still their hearts before the Lord, receive His unfailing love, and live with a new consciousness of being accepted in the Beloved.

Transcript

"Just as the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Abide in My love." -Jn. 15.9

Some years ago, I was in the home of a beloved servant of God by the name of Art Katz. We were discussing the need for a kind of preaching and proclamation that would not merely inform the people of God, but lift them into a greater inner-awareness of His love. He made a comment that struck my heart, and I am feeling it's reverberations especially today. This is what he said:

The Church is suffering from a chronic sense of inferiority, and they need to be built up in the reality of His love. We need to come into the realization that we've been "accepted in the Beloved."

So many believers are "suffering from a chronic sense of inferiority," and the opportunities for insecurity, self-consciousness, and anxiety are around every corner, particularly in a Western culture that is so status-driven. The powers of darkness have always worked overtime to keep the saints from a sustained and abiding experience of the favor and love of God. They have worked thousands of years at mastering the art of destroying the lives of men, and nowhere have they been more successful than in their plan to bind men in strife after worldly acceptance, while robbing them of the awareness of God's desire to secure

them in His love.

Billboards and magazines pin women into the corner of striving for external beauty, commercials and other media venues trap men in the pursuit after bigger trucks and better homes, and the options are voluminous for all types of searching after acceptance from others. Even in the religious world, many are jockeying for a position in ministry that would feed their 'spiritual' egos, and so many leaders are eaten up by a desire for numerical growth in their congregations and the popularity of their ministries. Individual strife for a spiritual reputation is also common in the Body, with jealousy and envy dominating so many souls who are wanting to establish a "form of godliness" without the reality of His power and love. We are comparing ourselves to others, living in an earthbound manner, and our vision of Jesus Christ is suffering as a result of it. We want approval from men, and it is that fallen desire that robs us from experiencing the heavenly approval that the Father longs to give.

"How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?" (Jn. 5.44)

Across the board, we humans are being consumed by a sense of inferiority to someone or something, and it all stems back to the fact that we have not adequately received and abided in the love of God Himself.

Can we fathom that He does not regret having brought us into the Kingdom? That we are not a part of some "inferior" segment of the Body of Christ? That we have nothing to prove to Him, nothing to perform in the aim of earning His love, and that He is kind and compassionate toward us not because of our spiritual performance, but because that is who He is?

We need to commit the rest of our days to pursuing a greater understanding and awareness of His love toward us. He has declared that He loves us "just as" the Father loves Him. Hear Him, dear saint! His affections are no less profound toward you than they were toward Moses, Paul, Brainerd, Whitefield, or any other great soul. Oh, that we would be awakened to the reality of His constant and unfading love, and that it would be more for us that a theological category; rather, an abiding experience as our hearts are more and more surrendered to His.

The more I study the New Testament and live the Christian life, the more convinced I am that our fundamental difficulty, our fundamental lack, is the lack of seeing the love of God. It is not so much our knowledge that is defective but our vision of the love of God. Thus our greatest object and endeavor should be to know Him better, and thus we will love Him more truly.

(D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, as quoted in *God's True Love* by David Harwood; 2008, p. 22)

The pursuit after acceptance from men is a deathly roller-coaster ride, and it will not end until you still your heart before the Lord, and learn to receive the love of God Himself. Jesus Christ has already declared that He loves you just as the Father has loved Him, but your reception of that love is not automatic. You must push your way past the multitudinous voices that press for your attention, "be still and know" that a much profounder love is being poured from heaven. All other voices lead to the fading glory of self, but the voice of the Lord is "above the waters," and it leads to His eternal glory, which is "life forevermore."

Dear believer, you need not to be jerked and pulled by the opinions, compliments, and criticisms of men. You need not to be plagued with a sense of inferiority and a burning desire to be accepted by others. The undying and unwavering love of God Himself is available to you, for the cross of Jesus Christ has torn the

veil of separation on your behalf. Turn from sin and strife for acceptance, and let your heart be stilled in the place of prayer. There you will hear His voice and receive from the well of His love, and your joy will be made full. And from that holy place, He will give you grace to live amongst men with a whole new consciousness, abiding in the love of God Himself, "accepted in the Beloved One."

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