

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 396
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Romans 15:7 ISV Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-5 ISV Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (2) Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing God's glory. (3) Not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, (4) endurance produces character, and character produces hope. (5) Now this hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Sometimes the solutions that faith requires are internal – in our heart and mind and in our perceptions of the universe around us. Do we see ourselves as always rejected? Do we often see God as punishing us? Do we see the world as evil and scheming and out to get us and deprive us? Goethe described the Devil as “He who always denies.” After living in this world, under Satan’s attacks we can become used to “always being denied” and end up feeling unblessed, deprived, useless and rejected.

The cure for this is to develop faith in the acceptance and love of God. For in Christ God has accepted us.

If God loves us, accepts us, justifies us and even desires to glorify us (Romans 8:28-31, John17:22) and that same God is the Creator and Ruler of all things, then He will be working to express that acceptance, love and joy to us, in practical ways in the midst of our daily life. The great saints of old have always beheld a “beautiful world” that is their friend, with for instance St. Francis speaking of “Brother Sun and Sister Moon. Because they were in harmony with God they also perceived themselves to be in harmony with His Creation. The whole world was accepting them and loving them because God had accepted them and loved them.

Proverbs puts it this way: Proverbs 16:7 MKJV When a man's ways please Jehovah, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Christians need to wake up to the fact that God loves them and accepts them and the angels love them and accept them (Hebrews 1:14) and the whole of Creation loves them and accepts them – except the Devil, a few demons and those that serve the dark side. When the bad guys are finally vanquished we will discover that we belong in a Universe of love.

God's love is based on us being in Christ, not on our spiritual performance. As long as you are born-again, then His life and His Spirit dwells in you, and you are acceptable to Him. We are "accepted in the beloved":

Ephesians 1:4-6 KJV According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption 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.

The cross has put an end to the wrath of God and we are reconciled to Him. (Colossian 1:19-20)

Colossians 1:19-20 KJV For it pleased [the Father] that in him should all fulness dwell; (20) And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say], whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven.

Given this we are reconciled to God, who has also reconciled all things to Himself, so God, Christians, and "all things" belong to the one vast community of reconciliation.

I am emphasizing this because we live in a world where we are informed daily about terrorist attacks, Internet scams, sexual predators and various plagues and poisons. This can lead to a semi-paranoid state of utter anxiety about "the state of the world" and indeed the person without Christ is perhaps justified in this perception.

But the Christian lives in the light, in a state of grace and acceptance and at peace with God and with the entire Universe that He rules. We are accepted and acceptable not just in a theological and religious sense but in a practical sense for we dwell in complete acceptance by all things from trees to angels to God Himself. We must not anticipate rejection, we should by faith anticipate favor and love and blessing (and persecution from a few).

Evil is not ultimate, God is ultimate and His love and acceptance is ultimate and final. At the end of our days we shall be surprised by joy and dwell in perfect love. Terrible things may occur in this life but they will eventually be forgotten at the moment when every tear will be wiped away.

Jesus was rejected but that rejection was not the end of the story for the Stone that the builders rejected became the Chief Cornerstone and it is marvelous in our eyes. (1 Peter 2:6,7) In Christ we share in His victory over rejection. We are accepted in the beloved.

Lets look at some practical applications of this. Say "Joe" is looking for a godly Christian wife but he has experienced rejection by women before. He is now terrified of dating. He can bring the problem to God like this: "Lord you love me and have accepted me and I am reconciled to you and to your Universe. By faith I believe that that You see me as lovable and acceptable. I pray that You will work in the perfect woman of your choosing, speak to her at the perfect time and help her to see me through Your eyes – as lovable and acceptable. Also help me to see myself as loveable and acceptable and cast out all my fears for your perfect love casts out all fear. In Jesus name. Amen."

Learn to dwell in the perfect love and acceptance of God, not in the fickle approval of people. If God says that you are lovable and acceptable, and that all your sins are forgiven and that you are justified in His sight – then you are loveable and acceptable, as a fact, as an eternal and immutable fact – and no opinion of any scarecrow man of straw can change that!

Say you are seeking a promotion at work. You can come to God and say: "Lord I am terrified of being rejected for this promotion. First show me, teach me, instruct me that I am lovable and acceptable just as I am, and that my self-worth does not depend on this promotion. Show me that human rejection is not final and does not affect me. Give me great peace and joy in the interview O Lord. But Lord I also ask that You will cause the interview panel to see me through your eyes, and that the love that You have for me will come to me through them, for the heart of the King is in your hands and you can turn it as you wish (Proverbs 21:1). May your perfect will be done in Jesus name. Amen."

The people blessed by God dwell in unusual favor – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, Esther, Mordecai and many others. They all had both great favor from God and great persecution from man. But God always won in the end!

God has a solution to your rejection - for He has accepted you and will make you acceptable to others, acceptable to the right people, at the right time. Now enter into that solution by faith.

Blessings,

John Edmiston (johned@aibi.ph)
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