

‘Guarding Our Self-Worth’, 2 Chron. 33:1-13

Introduction: Manasseh was a guy who had a godly father but then turned his back on God and participated in some of the worst idolatry his country had ever seen. Finally, in a foreign prison, he came to his senses and confessed his many sins and God then forgave and restored him late in life.

I. Forgiving to the glory of God.

A. One thing we learn from this story is to never give up praying for someone. Don’t give up hope because God can change people’s hearts, some early in life and others late in life.

B. But the main point I want to make is that if God can forgive Manasseh, then He can forgive each of us. Yet, I am amazed when I run into individuals who think God can’t forgive them. They think it’s too late for them. Or they may think that _____ can’t change.

C. If we confess our sins God will forgive us and we must also forgive ourselves. But the failure to do this is one cause of the poor self-esteem many carry with them. They keep condemning themselves.

D. But the good basis for guarding our self-worth is one that is based on the incredible and never-ending love of God. This is something that cannot be taken from you. The things or people we usually base our sense of self-worth on can all be taken from us. And even better is grace esteem. Self-esteem is the best the world has to offer, grace esteem is based on who God is and the amazing things He has done for us and who we are in Him.

II. Forgetting to the glory of God

A. A second aspect to guarding one’s self-worth is forgetting. Phil. 3:12-14: *‘forgetting what lies behind’*. Memories are wonderful but Paul tells us to press on. Don’t live in the _____. Make new memories, no matter your age or where you are. We ask the Lord to help us press on in this new day in the joy of the Lord.

B. Are there things you need to forget and then move on? Let it go, like water off a duck’s back. In life, you learn to let a lot of things go. And if you just can’t let it go, then you need to go to that person and gently and humbly deal with it, so as far as it depends on you, to be at peace with all people.

III. Remembering to the glory of God.

A third aspect of guarding our self-worth is remembering. Eph. 2:12. Why would Paul say remember how we used to be?

I think there are good reasons for it and they affect our self-worth.

1. It helps to keep us thankful.
2. It helps us to be more compassionate and loving. Jesus said he who is forgiven much, loves much.
3. It helps us be less judgmental, when we realize we’ve been saved by grace.
4. It helps keep us _____. How does it keep us humble? Ezek. 16:62,63
5. It helps keep us dependent on God, on His grace, on His mercy. When we honestly search our own hearts, we realize what we’re still capable of doing if we don’t avail ourselves of God’s help.

Being forgiven, now we serve the King of Kings. We’ve been adopted into His royal family, a King’s kid, loved unconditionally by One who has infinite value and as a result it gives value, meaning, security and significance to our lives.

Forgiving, forgetting, remembering all to the praise of God!