

Lesson #1

Esteem: Image and the Xerox Machine

Introduction: Which of these would help your esteem? (Place an X before your choices.)

- Completing a project you've long wanted to complete.
- Receiving high praise from your boss for a job well done.
- Hearing someone compliment you on how nice you look.
- Taking plenty of time for rest and relaxation.
- Being fired or being laid off from a job.
- Seeing your children succeed at something. (i.e. sports, job promotion, etc.)
- Hearing someone criticize you mean-spiritedly.
- Being asked to help with an important project.
- Taking a quiet time for yourself at an appointed time each day.

I. What does the Bible mean when it uses the word "image?"

The Bible tells us that we were created "in the image of God." (Gen 1:26-27) There are two Hebrew words used for "image" in that passage. What does the word "image" mean? Some of the passages below show us how those Hebrew words were used in other passages. This helps us determine what the words meant in regards to us at creation.

1Sam. 6:5 Make models of the tumors and of the rats that are destroying the country, ...

Ezek. 23:14 "But she carried her prostitution still further. She saw men portrayed on a wall, figures of Chaldeans portrayed in red,

2Kgs. 16:10 Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria. He saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction.

1. From these passages we learn that the word "image" means _____
_____.

To understand what is meant by the "image of God," consider these passages:

Eph. 4:24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Col. 3:10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

2. We were exact copies of God in this way: God created us to be _____ or _____.

II. Which image is being “xeroxed” now?

Gen. 5:3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

When Seth is born, he’s _____ .

Ps. 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Since you and I are “Xeroxes” of Adam, that means that we’re _____ .

Rom 7:18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing. ... 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

In that image we find _____ . Rather, that image brings to us _____ .

Mark 7:14 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. 15 Nothing outside a man can make him `unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him `unclean.' " ... 17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. 18 "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him `unclean'? 19 For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.") 20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him `unclean.' 21 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 All these evils come from inside and make a man `unclean.'"

1. The Pharisees were saying that eating food with unwashed hands made a man unclean. Verses 15 and 18 both make the point that nothing outside of us _____ .
2. Instead, what makes us unclean is _____ .
3. The word translated "unclean" literally means _____ .

<p>Discuss it!</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jesus is, of course, telling us the truth when He tells us that it’s not what comes at us from the outside which makes us unclean; rather, it’s what’s coming from inside of us. As a group, decide on three reasons why that’s so valuable for you to understand.2. One of the classic Saturday Night Live characters was Stuart Smalley. He played the part of a psychologist, and his mantra to people was, “I’m good enough, I’m smart enough, and doggone it, people like me.” While it was fun/funny, it’s actually a fairly widely held idea. (i.e. that we’re good and we just need to convince ourselves of that.) Write down at least three reasons why that approach cannot work.
-------------------------------	--

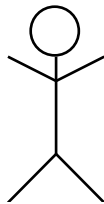
III. Can the Original Image Be Restored?

2Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

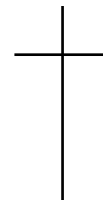
1. How does God describe the person who has been called to faith in Jesus? (v17)

2. When Adam and Eve sinned, they turned their relationship with God into one of hostility, and in so doing destroyed their esteem. When God calls us to faith, we are reconciled to God. That means that _____.

3. Verse 18. All this is _____.



God's Great Exchange



III. Understanding “Role” vs. “Status”

Role

Status

<p><i>Digging Deeper</i></p>	<p>1. In 1Kings 19, one of Elijah’s mistakes seems to be that he was paying too much attention to his role, not enough attention to his status. Quickly read 1Kings 19:1-18 and discover a) how that affected Elijah and b) how a gracious God dealt with it.</p>
---	---

***Taking it
Home***

1. We can see that the enemy of esteem is ... me! Finish this sentence two different ways: "It's really important for me to see that because ..."
2. On the other hand, real esteem is going to come from God and what He's done for me. As a group, decide on three reasons that point is so valuable for you to know.