

Objective: Father who is pleased with me

Our theme for 2017 is Write Your Story. We want you to write a great story by the end of 2017 in every aspect of your life, whether it's your study, your relationship, your parenting, your family, your health, your financial, your ministry, and many more. To help you in writing your best story, we want to equip you with the solid truth from the Bible.

This week we will learn that **Our good Father is pleased with me**. He calls us as beloved not because of our good works at all, but it's all because of Christ that lives in us. Since Jesus lives in us and we live in Jesus, the way God looks at us is the same way on how He looks at Jesus. There can be nothing that takes His love away from you, and by that He is well pleased with us in everything that we do and every moment. With this right believing, we will learn to be generous in making others feeling happy. We will have fun with people and very secure in who we are.

WELCOME

Here are sample ice breaker questions for you to use in Cause Community.

- If you were a vegetable, what vegetable would you be?
- If you woke up tomorrow as an animal, what animal would you choose to be and why?
- If you could choose your age forever, what age would you choose and why?

WORSHIP

Take time to pray for our city and nation, especially after PILKADA.

WORD

Studies have shown that in the heart of every child is a cry for his father's approval. Something happens when a father says to his boy, "Daddy is so proud of you." Or when a father says to his girl, "You will always be Daddy's favorite girl."

You can catch such a similar special moment in the Bible when God the Father displayed His approval of His Son — "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) The Bible shows us that Jesus' ministry began with the approval of the Father, even before He had performed any miracle.

Now, you may think that God would naturally say that of Jesus, but not of us. My friend, the truth is that Jesus came for us and as us. He died for us and as us. He received the approval of the Father for us and as us. He came as our representative. And if that is not enough, God tells us in His Word that we are "accepted in the Beloved"!

Why did God specifically say "accepted in the Beloved" and not simply "accepted in Christ"? It is because He is calling to our remembrance what had happened at the Jordan river where He said, "This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God wants us to know that we are His beloved and that He is well pleased with us.

God sees us as His beloved because He has made us accepted in the Beloved. He wants us to wake up every day knowing that we are His beloved, unconditionally loved and wholly approved.

The more we know how much we are loved and treasured by God, the more we can expect good things to happen in our lives. We can expect to be healthy and whole. When we realize that we are the objects of God's love, instead of becoming easily frightened or threatened by anything or anyone, we become confident that we will win every fight of life.

Titus 3:1-7

1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

WHAT DOES GOD THINK OF ME?

Intro: Let me ask you a question: Do you ever wonder what people think about you? Do you even care? To some extent, most of us do care what others think of us. Now, let me ask you another question: Has anyone ever told you what they think about you? When they do, you are often sorry they did. There have been times, when a person told me just what they thought of me, and I was glad they did. There have been other times when folks have shared their thoughts about me and I was not pleased at all. That is one reason I do not ask people what they think of me. I am afraid they will tell me!

Today, I want to look at this matter from a spiritual perspective. If you were to ask **Satan** what he thinks about you, he would probably say, "**You are a failure!**" If you asked **society** what they think of you, they might say, "**You are a fool!**" If you asked **self**, that is, your own heart, self might say, "**You are a fake!**" Have you ever heard these things? Many have and on a daily basis!

But, does it really matter what Satan, society and self think about you and me? No! All that really matters, in the end, is what God thinks about us. Have you ever wondered just what God thinks about you? Is it possible to know what God thinks about us? Do we really want to know what He thinks about us? Well, this passage clearly reveals exactly what God thinks about us.

In these verses, Paul answers the question I posed a few moments ago: **What Does God Think Of Me?** In this passage designed for instruction, we can find a word of encouragement. Some of you may be discouraged as you wonder how God sees you. Well, if you are saved, you are about to find out. If you are not, then you are going to learn how God would see you if you came to Jesus. Let's look in to these verses together as we address the question: **What Does God Think Of Me?**

I. v. 3-6 **GOD THINKS YOU ARE PRECIOUS**

(Satan says, "**God doesn't care about you at all.**" God says something completely different. These verses teach us that God loves us more than we can possibly understand.)

A. v. 3 **The Extent Of His Love** – Verse 3 paints a vivid picture of what the believer was before he or she met Jesus.

- **Foolish** – Ignorant of everything to do with God.
- **Disobedient** – Rebellious toward any authority instituted by God.
- **Deceived** – Continually led deeper and deeper into sin by Satan.
- **Serving divers lusts and pleasures** – A slave to our fleshly appetites and passions.
- **Living in malice** – Given over to a lifestyle of evil.
- **Envy** – Never satisfied with what we have, but always grasping for more.
- **Hateful** – This is the natural fruit of all the above. This kind of life makes us mean-spirited and hard to get along with.

· **Hating one another** – Walking without love for our fellow man.

This is what we were, and what some in this room still are. It is a terrible condition to be in, yet that is what the Bible says time and time again, **Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Cor. 6:9-10**. Even in that condition, God still loved us: **Jer. 31:3**. He could have written us off and just allowed us go to Hell, but He loved us and did something about it!

B. v. 4, 6b **The Evidence Of His Love** – This verses says “*after that*”. In other words, “*in spite of what we were and are, God chose to display His love for us.*” How did He do that? The answer is in **verse 6**. It says “*through Jesus Christ*”. God gave evidence of His love for fallen man by sending His Son into the world to die for our sins, **Rom. 5:6-8; John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10**.

If you need evidence that you are precious to the Lord, then look no farther than Calvary! You don’t need a feeling, just look to the cross! Look away to Jesus as He dies on the cross for your sins, **2 Cor. 5:21**, and know that you are special to the Lord. He loved you and that is the reason for the awful death of Jesus Christ. The cross says, “*I love you! You are special to Me!*”

God’s love for us was not the love of a secret admirer. No! He loved us so much that He went to work to see us saved. Satan will tell you that God doesn’t love you all; the evidence says something quiet different! The evidence says that you are precious in His eyes! God sees us exactly as we really are, but He loves us anyway!

II. v. 7a **GOD THINKS YOU ARE PERFECT**

(Again, the enemies of the believer, Satan and the flesh will tell you that you are dirty, wicked and that you have no hope at all. Folks, the devil is a liar, **John 8:44**; and you can’t believe a word your own heart tells you, **Jer. 17:9**! **Verse 7** tells you what God thinks about your standing. He says that He has “*justified*” you by His grace.)

A. **A Definition** – What does it mean to be “*justified*”? Justified comes from a word that means, “*to render righteous or such as he ought to be.*” It is a word that speaks of God declaring the saved person to be in a perfect and right standing before God. That is saying a lot!

B. **A Description** – Being justified is far different from being forgiven. Some people think that justification is just the forgiveness of our sins. Justification is far more powerful than that! When there is forgiveness there is also the remembrance of the wrong committed. A man might be convicted of murder and be forgiven by the victim’s family; but everyone still knows what that murderer did.

On the other hand, a person who had been justified has been totally acquitted and exonerated of all charges. There is absolutely no record of any wrongdoing. When we are justified by God, all record of our sin is forever banished from the memory of the Lord. It is as if we had never or will never sin! (**Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:12; Heb. 10:16-17**) The bottom line is this: the law has no claims against a justified person. The law of God is satisfied, there is no case against the redeemed ones! There are no charges against the child of God.

C. **A Defense** – Some might hear this and say, “*Well, that is an excuse to sin. If the Lord doesn’t remember and He has already declared me righteous, then I can do as I please with no consequences.*” If you think that then you are dead wrong and way off base! You can be saved and still sin. When you do, your sin will not affect your relationship with God. Once you are saved by grace and justified by God, that condition can never be altered.

WARMTH

1. What changes when you know and understand on how God sees you?
2. Can you share a testimony on what you experience when you understand that God is pleased with you?
3. What kind of freedom that you have when you know you are well pleased in His eyes to the relationship that you have with the people around you?

WORK

This week continue your daily devotion by rooting into God's love with youversion apps in a plan called '7 days to a hope-inspired life' by Nick Vujcic. Be blessed with this great devotion.