



Who cares, I don't care

Have been at a place in your life where you overly care what people think of you primarily because of a setback or something of that nature—especially if you are in a leadership position. Overly caring what others think of you can easily handicap you as a leader. I have worried what people thought of me and it could have destroyed me had I not gone to the Word of God and found out what God thinks of me.

In our flesh, we are not perfect. We will make mistakes. We will sin. We should not boast in ourselves, but in the Lord. All these failures and setbacks can cause you to become concerned about what others think of you. This is a dangerous downward spiral.

If you do not get over yourself and what people think of you, you can never do exploits. You will be average in everything as a leader or as a manager. You can never reach your potential. People think of you what they think anyway. This is inevitable. You can't fully remove the negative things people think or will think of you. It is what it is. You can't pray it away or rebuke it. It's beyond your sphere of influence. People can either lock or unlock your potential—if you let them. Stop trying to move in or live in other people's heads. It's time to move out!

All you can do is do things, make decisions, and succeed in a way that will cause them to see you and think of you differently and positively. This you can do.

WOTAM (What Others Think About Me)—Keeps us in a state of paralysis. Here is the good news of all this. **You don't have to wonder what God thinks of you.** It's written. You don't have to wonder what others are thinking of you. You don't have to be consumed with a lack of answers.

Do not just come up with the answers to the questions you wonder if others are thinking of you.

The Word of God is the number one way to get the answers you want and get over what people think of you. We need to go back to the Word and see what the Word says about us

and believe that. Nothing else! This will take life out of what people think of us. Why? Because it is what God thinks of us and is heavier than what all others do think of us.

One of the reasons we get so hurt by what people say and think of us is because we had them so highly elevated in our lives. We were leaning on them which is why we were hurt and disappointed.

Let us face, there is no hurt or disappointment if we are not leaning on someone else or worrying about what they think. We won't go crazy or be worried about what others think if we did not highly esteem what they thought of us. This perspective will totally set you free.

I have found a new way of looking at things that is helping me. Speaking of trusting God, **"You did not disappoint me. I was not trusting in you anyway. All this time, I was trusting in the Lord."**

Do I seek to please men?

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

- a) Whoever you try to persuade is who you are trying to please.
- b) If we are worried about what people think of us, we won't seek to please God, but man. Being worried about what people think about you = fear of man. Constantly being worried about what people think of you will cause or make you a man-pleaser. It will bring the fear of man in your heart, and you will be ensnared.
 - i) Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

- a) Paul was very careful not to be a man-pleaser. He was careful not to be overly troubled and concerned about what people think of him. If anyone were to be worried about this, Paul was the guy. He had killed a lot of people and had persecuted the church. He could have thought, *"What are these all thinking of me,"* which could have destroyed him before he started.

I feared the people

1 Samuel 15:24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

- a) Talking about people who care about what others think, King Saul is top of the list. You can be friendly, but not be a friend. Many people try to be a friend to everyone in an effort to influence what they think of them. They care too much about what others think. The man made many of his mistakes because he was trying to appease and please the people. I get it and I have been there. We try to want to please people because we care what they think, and we want to be liked by them. It's normal to want people to think well of us, to like us however, if we are not careful, this can be used by the enemy to hurt us. We need to stop caring what people think. If we do not, others will end up controlling us without knowing. There is an unhealthy caring of what people think of us. It holds us back. This can be one of the biggest hindrances to your progress.
- b) There is a place for you to care what others think for the purpose of improvement and growth—yet not all, but a few that God has brought and speak in your life, but not to the point where it negatively affects and handicaps you.

What people think can help you improve and should never stop you from living life to the fullest or going after what God has deposited in your heart.

Couldn't have seen a difference

- a) Jesus—If Jesus was thinking about what people were thinking of Him, He would've accomplished nothing. He wouldn't have gone to the cross. It was humiliating, hard, ugly to the point that He did sweat blood.
- b) Zacchaeus—Zacchaeus wouldn't have climbed a tree to see the Lord and he could have missed out on the Lord dining at his house that night. He would have missed salvation.
- c) Woman of the issue of blood—Mark 5—The woman with the issue of blood could have missed her miracle worrying about what everyone would think.

Let God be true

What really counts is what God thinks! Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

- a) We need to let what God thinks of us be true and what man has to think to be a lie. If any opinion is going to count, it is going to be the Lord's. This is the only perspective that can help you survive what others think of you.

Thy thoughts to us-ward

Psalms 40:5 Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Here we are told the thoughts that God has toward us. They are many, wonderful, and if we were to declare and make mention of them, they are more can be numbered.

Fearfully and wonderfully made

Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

He thinks that you were fearfully and wonderfully made. He thinks you were made in His image.

Good thoughts—thoughts of peace, not of evil

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

- a) God thinks of you and so do people, but unlike people, He thinks well of you and has an amazing and good plan for you even when you have screwed up. His thoughts toward you are only good and of peace—not of evil.

Who can be against you?

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

- a) If God be for you, who can be against you? Who cares what they think? Knowing and believing that the Lord is with you is a game changer. You start worrying less and you eventually stop being concerned about what others think.

More than conquerors

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

- a) We are not losers no matter what other people think of us. The Word says we are more than conquerors.

Loved by God

John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

- a) We are loved by God as He loved Jesus. The next verse reveals that the Father loved him from the foundation of the world.

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- a) Knowing and receiving His love for you is a crucial antidote to what people may think of you. If He never thought well of us, He would not have died on the cross for us. He loves you even though others may choose not to love you. You can rest assured of His love for you.

Romans 5:6-10 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **Much more** then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, **much more**, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

- a) How do you know Jesus loves you? He died for you. He took the bullet for you/us.
 - i) Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.
 - ii) John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
 - iii) John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

God is with you

This changes your perspective on everything. Who cares if people or someone doesn't like you? I can't be upset over some people who don't like me. The Lord likes me, and I should not stay up late worried about what people think of me. People will think of you whatever they want. You can't stop them.

You can't win everyone over. If you do not move past this, it can drive you crazy. You should not be letting other people rent space in your head—especially if it is not an empty head. You have things to do. Busy yourself.

Woe unto you... ALL men speak well of you

Luke 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

- a) It should not be, and it is not a good thing if **ALL** men speak well of you. If we are truly seeking and following the Lord, people will not speak well of us. We should not be worried or concerned.

Sought not the glory of men

1 Thessalonians 2:6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

- a) We should not seek the glory of man. If we do, we will be deeply concerned about what they think. Are you satisfied with Jesus and His thoughts toward you, or do you need more from other people?

Self-defense

In the effort to change and influence what people think of us, we tend to compromise our values, beliefs, convictions, and positions to draw them on our side.

We also tend to defend ourselves to appear right before them. Truth be said, if we did not think much of what they think of us, we wouldn't be self-defending.

Now, it must be said that **there is a difference between defending yourself and defending the truth**. I was once burned for not defending the truth thinking it would be perceived as defending myself. This person lied about me, and I did not respond appropriately by defending the truth and it led the people we were talking to, to conclude that I was guilty.

Spiritually minded

Romans 8:5-6 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. [6] For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- a) Being mindful of the opinions of man is being carnally minded and it produces death. Rather we need to be focused on how and what God thinks of us. This is being spiritually minded and it produces life and peace. If we are lacking in peace, we have been mindful of the things of the flesh such as what people think of us.
- b) I heard a minister of the Gospel say that if someone had an issue with him and he did not know, he was not going to have them rent space in his head. They will have to come and tell him. He was not going to speculate.
- c) Having speculative imagination is another way of saying one is worried and concerned about what others think of him. We need to avoid forming thoughts and opinions based on a lack of and/or inadequate evidence or information One then draws conclusions that are based on illusions, not the truth. This is very dangerous as one also comes to conclusions that are false and/or inaccurate.

The Lord stood with me

2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

- a) Paul knew who was with him and who stood with him which helped him to move forward and not fall apart. The Lord was with him even when all men forsook him.

Not with enticing words or excellent speech

1 Corinthians 2:1, 4 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

- a) I know a minister of the Gospel who does not have excellent speech. We all have accents, but he has ONE. His English is not the best. He was once concerned about what people thought of him and he was almost trying to change himself to be what people wanted him to be like. The problem is that is not who God called or created him to be. He was becoming what people wanted him to be and if he did, people would have demanded him to become more and better. This would never end. This is what I call Hollywood. It is not reality. If you live this way, you will have uncontrollable pressures.

What do you think? What are you focused on?

Hebrews 12:1-3 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

- a) Jesus endured the hardship of the cross by focusing on "the joy that was set before Him". To endure hardship, we have to fix our eyes on the good not the bad just as Jesus did.

- b) Jesus put the suffering behind Him and focused on the joy that would come to you and me. Controlling the way you think, controls your endurance. Anyone prone to fainting has already been thinking wrong.
- c) Our minds are like magnifying glasses. Whatever we focus our attention on becomes bigger and bigger and more dominant in our lives. Whatever we fail to focus our attention on begins to shrink in importance and influence. We may still retain the knowledge, but the impact of that knowledge diminishes the less we focus on it. — Andrew Wommack

Classic examples of people mindful of what others think of them:

1. King Saul.

1 Samuel 15:24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

2. Pharisees

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:
43 **For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.** (Emphasis mine)