



## Self-esteem?

Many define self-esteem as feelings of worth based on their skills, accomplishments, status, financial resources, or appearance. This type of self-esteem leads a person to feel self-sufficient, prideful, and to indulge in self-worship, hence desensitizing their desire for God. Self-esteem, as promoted in the world, is not biblical. This may be a shock to many people that the bible does not teach self-esteem, self-worth, self-love. It teaches the very opposite—denial of self and dying to self. It's through laying down our lives that we truly find it.

Not that a believer should go about with low self-esteem, looking at himself as the scam of the earth. Low self-esteem like self-esteem is all selfishness, self-centeredness, and self-promotion. It is pride at the center of it.

A believers' self-worth must be based on our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and who we are in Him.

True healthy and biblical self-worth and self-value is simply nothing more than what God says we are and nothing less. We reach this place by knowing who we are in Christ.

A. Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

a) Self-esteem is one of the reasons for strife and vainglory.

i) Our glory ought not to be in us, but in the Lord. If it's in us, it's in vain—vainglory.

b) "Esteem" means to value

i) This passage of scripture does not teach self-esteem or self-value, but to value others more than we value ourselves.

c) "lowliness" means humility.

i) Esteeming ourselves over others is pride in its simplest form.

- B. Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
  - a) Not busybodies or nosy people but to look at things from the perspective of others also not just our own perspective.
  
- C. Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
  - a) This verse admonishes us to love our wives, not ourselves. If we are valuing ourselves more than others, we will end up in self-love or self-value, hence violating the Word of God.
  
- D. 2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
  - a) We need to be careful not to be lovers of our own selves and in many cases, self-esteem is just that.
  
- E. 1 Corinthians 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
  - a) Rather than self-esteem and self-worth, the Word teaches us to die daily, which simply refers to denying ourselves and the flesh.
  
- F. Luke 9:23-24 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.
  - a) If the Bible taught self-esteem, this passage would not have told us to take up our cross.
  - b) Our self-worth should be in Christ, not in ourselves. It should be in who we are in Christ, not who we are in the flesh.
  - c) Without Christ Jesus, we cannot do all things.