

Paul's explanation of "Humility."

April 10, 2022

1 CORINTHIANS 15:9-10 NKJV – (9) For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **(10)** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Paul is an example of someone who had a balanced self-image. We catch a glimpse of this in **1 Corinthians 15:8-10**. After listening those who had the privilege of seeing the risen Christ, Paul declared with humility that he was the last one to see the Lord. What was Paul's journey from an earlier, distorted view to this more accurate self-perception?

Before his conversion, Paul had too high an opinion of himself. He had reached the top tier of Judaism and was confident as a Pharisee that his obedience to the law had earned him God's approval and acceptance (**Philippians 3:4-6**). He was so convinced of his self-righteous beliefs that he persecuted the church. It took a visit from Jesus on the Damascus road to open Paul's mind to the truth that he was a sinner in need of a Savior.

After, Paul humbly adjusted his self-image to a more accurate assessment. He said, "Whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ" (**Philippians 3:7-8**). When he wrote to the Corinthians, he described himself as "the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (**1 Corinthians 15:9**).

Now, you might think Paul must have had a terrible self-image at this point. How could he possibly get over the guilt of what he'd done? Perhaps you feel this way about yourself. Is past sin dogging your steps, dragging you down into discouragement, and distorting your self-image? Do you let your failures shape how you see yourself? If so, learn from Paul's example. Paul viewed himself as God saw him (**1 Corinthians 15:10** and **Ephesians 1:3-14**). Finally, Paul lived in his new self-image given to him by God's grace.

Many things distort self-perception-guilt from past sin, criticism, failures, and comparison to others are just a few. But these are not true markers of who you are. In Christ, you are a new creation and have been given a new self, made in the likeness of God. That is so that is who you truly are.

SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 12:16

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"