

## What God Sees in You Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Introduction:** Happy Mother's Day!! **Our topic today...**What God Sees in You

We have a small gift for you that will serve as an object lesson for today's message.

**For Mother's...**no surprise. Often Moms get a little something on Mother's Day.

**For the guys...**you lucked out!! You are now the proud owner of a Gladiola Bulb!!

**On the bag (our object lesson) it says...**

God sees in me the potential to grow, be strong and bring joy to others.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Eph. 2:10

**Here is the focus for today...**

Sometimes what we see in ourselves does not match what God sees in us.

**My goal for today...**

That you will be greatly encouraged as you see and know the thoughts God has towards you.

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! Psalms 139

We are wary of bringing popular psychology that is not Biblically based into our theology.

Self-respect? Self-worth? Self-esteem? We get uneasy.

Is the focus is shifting away from God and more to us?

We do live in a very narcissistic age! We see the "exaltation of man" everywhere.

**This not about the exaltation of self!**

We still need a Saviour! We are still human and prone to sin and mess up!

We still need grace and forgiveness! We do not have all the answers!

**Here is the problem to overcome...**

We have learned to **love** others...but we fail to love ourselves!

We have **forgiven** others for the hurt...but we cannot find the grace to forgive ourselves.

We see the **potential** in others...but we see nothing in ourselves that could help anyone.

We are **kind** and **gracious** towards others...but we are very hard on ourselves.

**Salvation...**How we know, see, understand and experience God has been changed!

**Also...**How we know, see, understand and experience self is changed.

**How can we now see our self?**

I am a child of God. 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1

I am adopted into the family. Eph. 1:5

I am accepted not rejected. Eph. 1:6

I am chosen by God. Eph. 1:4

I am justified and forgiven. 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 6:11

I am a new creation. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:17

I am created to do good works. Eph. 2:10

The work of God's salvation is not complete until we see and know ourselves as God sees us.

### **Declaration...**

It is time to stop the self-loathing and start seeing yourself as God sees you!

### **Let me paint you a picture...**

**Becky** is a 36 year married mother of 2 children. She feels trapped in a dead end job. She cannot move forward because she feels she does not have the smarts or the time or the money to invest in herself and further her education. So she dutifully goes to work each day dreading every single minute. She never feels good enough, attractive enough or pretty enough for her husband. She feels like she is missing the mark as a parent. Every other Mom is more efficient, more organized and more loving with her children. She secretly wishes she had some of the talent that others at her church have. Because she feels she has nothing to offer she remains silently in the background and lets others find joy in serving and using their abilities.

**David** is a 58 year old man who recently lost his marriage. He now finds himself trying to navigate the difficult path of seeing his kids and grandkids, who have been forced to divide their time carefully with two people whom they love equally - their Father and Mother - Grampy and Nanny. He is having a hard time forgiving himself and because of that, he also has a hard time receiving forgiveness from his family and from God. He feels like everyone must hate him for letting his career steal him away from his family and for allowing a season in his life when his drinking became a debilitating factor in his life. He is on the brink of slipping into an even darker world.

**Andre** is an 18 year high school student in his final year. He struggles with feeling accepted by his peers. His family came here as refugees when he was only 11 and after 7 years of dealing with the highs and lows of trying to establish a new life in Canada he still struggles with the burden of his parent's post traumatic stress, the families inability to break free from borderline poverty and the sense that he will never be good enough because of his ethnicity, and his struggle to get the language and the culture of his newfound home.

### **The problem is not how God feels about them!**

They have not yet broken away from the debilitating image they have of themselves.

### **Shift...**

What God Sees in You!!!

He sees amazing potential to bless others!!

### **It is not unlike the relationship between Peter and Jesus.**

Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Peter. John 1:42

### **Jesus made the declaration...**

You are not going to stay a Simon! You are going to be Peter...a rock!!

**Simon**...vacillating, indecisive, impetuous, impulsive, hot-headed!

**Peter**...the rock solid an of God!

God sees more than the bulb! (The illustration of the bulb)

Not very desirable.

God always sees the end result, not just the current circumstance.

Locked away inside is something of great beauty.  
All this bulb needs is the right environment and a transformation will take place!!

### **What is that environment?**

We need a culture of **ICNU** at SSC.  
I SEE IN YOU!!!

Let's call out the potential in others.  
See what is not readily seen.

You need a little faith to believe in what God has put in your heart!

**Personal example:** I often feel the **nudge** of the Holy Spirit... "step up to the plate."

**That environment will often be a season of darkness and cold.**

**Do not forget...**

Your heavenly Father knows where you are planted.  
It is time to break out of the dark, confining space and emerge into the warmth of  
God's light and purpose!

We wanted to have the young ladies who did the beautiful dance to the song "You Say" come back again.  
Unfortunately one of them is sick, and it could not happen.  
We decided we would invite Lauren Daigle to come and sing.

**A special note to the ladies...young and old.**

You are under a lot of pressure. You may feel like you do not measure up.  
May you be encouraged today to know...in God's eyes, you are enough...because He is enough!