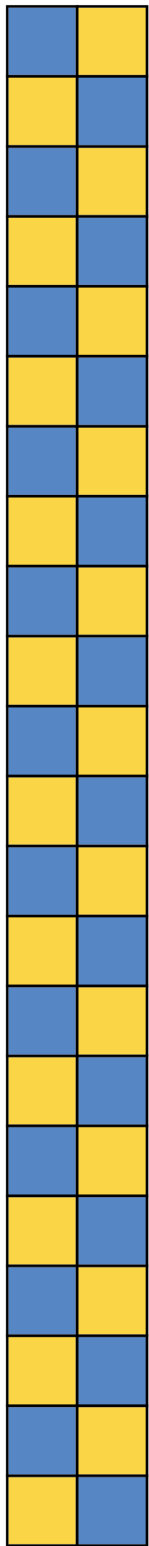


IT'S TIME FOR DIFFERENT



Conversation Guide

Pastor E. Paul Allen

Week 4 - Love Yourself Correctly - Part 2

SERMON RECAP:

Our identity in Christ not only grants us salvation and eternal life with Him, it changes the way we live on earth! One of the ways God changes our hearts is by giving us the ability to love ourselves correctly. When we love ourselves and view ourselves the way He sees us, we are no longer bound by the things of this world or other people's approval. Instead, we focus on His sustaining and abiding presence!

Have you ever craved the approval of someone close to you? Maybe a parent, spouse, friend, teacher, or boss. After all, it feels good to be approved of, praised, or valued! We desire to be loved and appreciated. The approval of people will always let us down because we weren't created to be sustained by others! Instead, we were created to be approved of and loved by God. His love is the only love that satisfies, because He Himself is love! When we shift our perspective, our bondage is broken and we're free to love ourselves correctly.

We often see ourselves and form an identity based on our performance: EGO or Self-loathing. It's time that we love ourselves correctly by believing and seeing ourselves as God sees us. How we see ourselves determines our habits and our habits establish our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Upward

- Why do you think it matters so much to God how we view ourselves? Does your view of yourself line up with God's view of you in Christ?
- Read Romans 5:9-10. What do these verses tell you about the character and faithfulness of God? Write down your response to remember who He is.

Inward

- Whose opinion or approval do you deeply desire? Do you hold this approval above God's? How can you take steps towards releasing this desire to Him?
- What does it mean to be reconciled to God? How are we invited to live based on this truth? (Ephesians 1:3-7)

Outward

- We can love others better when we love God and ourselves first. How can you take a step towards loving yourself for the sake of your neighbor? How might this change the way you treat others?

SOUL TATTOO:

Love yourself correctly by seeing yourself the way God sees you.

ACTION STEP:

Participate in our Hope Dealers Market by giving and serving.