

Your Self-Worth

In life's "front nine" we're busy acquiring assets like relationships, education, career, family, wisdom, finances, etc.

Then at some point we begin losing grandparents, aunts and uncles, parents, friends, kids, career, health, mobility, etc.

Letting go can take a greater toll on us than we realize or admit. Last November I lost a client whom I'd been serving since 1978. When they changed ad agencies, half my revenue - and part of me - left the building.

I'd invested a chunk of my life in that client, their people, and their industry. I'd been closely identified with it on and off the air, so I lost income, the satisfaction of serving a leading brand, and public visibility.

As I inventory my feelings, I've been reassessing how you and I establish and retain self-worth. So, today's "Big Question" is:

Have you ever found the needle on your Self-Worth Tank near Empty?

Are you ever dogged by feelings of inadequacy, unfulfillment, lack of confidence, thinking that everything significant that you've accomplished was just a fluke?

Have you ever felt less than whole? If so, how do you deal with it?

Genuinely prospering, as God defines it in the Bible, is achieving the purposes for which He made us.

In THE PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE Rick Warren challenges us to ask ourselves "Life's Five Greatest Questions." Question #1 is:

"What will be the center of my life?" ... Who are you going to live for? What are you going to build your life around?" Career, family, sports, hobbies, money, fun? All can be good but ... "None is strong enough to hold you together when life starts breaking apart. **You need an unshakable center.** ...

"...whatever is at the center of your life is your god. ... How do you know when God is at the center of your life? When God's at the center, you worship. When He's not, you worry. Worry is the warning light that God has been shoved to the sideline. The moment you put Him back at the center, you will have peace again."

In A.D. 61 while in prison in Rome for preaching the Gospel, Paul wrote this to Christ's followers:

"6 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. 7 Before you know it, **a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together** for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."
(Philippians 4:6-7)

A year earlier prisoner Paul sent these words to the believers:

"13 God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much. 14 The Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating. 15 We look at this Son and see

the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. 16 For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels--**everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.** 17 He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. 18 And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body. He was supreme in the beginning and--leading the resurrection parade--he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. 19 So spacious is he, so roomy, that **everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding.** 20 Not only that, but **all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe--people and things, animals and atoms--get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death,** his blood that poured down from the Cross. 21 You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. 22 But now, by giving himself **completely** at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and **put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.** 23 You **don't walk away** from a gift like that! You **stay grounded and steady** in that bond of trust, **constantly tuned in** to the Message, **careful not to be distracted or diverted.** **There is no other Message--just this one.** Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message." (Colossians 1:13-23)

Speaking of Christ, Paul adds:

"9 Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize

the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. 10 When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too." (Colossians 2:9-10)

When things, relationships or health vanish, you need an unshakable center. What or who will be the center of your life?

Personally, these days I'm zoned in more than ever on what God says is true about me, while I'm waiting for my emotions to catch up with that invisible truth. Tonight I'm still in that process of trusting that I have Jesus as my rock-solid core. Better yet, He has me!

Does He have you?

Do you have an unshakeable center?

His Deal

www.HisDeal.org

george@HisDeal.org

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