

BASES OF
SELF ACCEPTANCE -7-

I'M O.K.

A. FIRST WE SAW THE PARENT IN DISAPPROVAL
B. THE PARENT, AGAIN, AFFIRMING THIS
TIME APPROVAL.

I. INTRODUCTION:

This position has these presumptions:

- A. An adult position which will accept FACTS and the word
- B. An acknowledgment that the word of God is the REPOSITORY OF ALL FACTS
- C. A conclusion, then, that we are O.K. only when GOD'S WORD SO AFFIRMS

When, then, does God put the stamp "YOU'RE O.K." on the life of His child?

II. DEVELOPMENT:

5. A. I know I'm O.K. when I act agreeably, for this is one of God's revealed absolutes (Matt. 5:21-26), 39-42.

1. By definition, agreeableness is

- a. The absence of anger, that personally oriented reaction involving what I consider to be my rights. (Illus: all Vennardians are kooks!) "make your own list of things worthy of anger in your life ... remembering THE SIZE OF THE MAN CAN BE MEASURED BY THE SIZE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKE HIM ANGRY."
- b. The absence of retaliation which is in fact a reflection of uncertainty--I am so unsure of my position I have to defend it.
- c. The presence of reconciliation. We learn this in the context of Jesus' teaching about the brother who has ought against me. NOTE: WHILE HE HAS A GRIEVANCE AGAINST ME IT IS MY OBLIGATION TO INITIATE THE RECONCILING PROCESS. That process will cost me:

- (1) The smitten cheek; ~~hurt~~ INJURY (vs. 39)
- (2) The lost coat; ~~loss~~ INVESTMENT (vs. 40)
- (3) The extra mile; inconvenience (vs. 41)
- (4) The unreturned item; ~~annoyance~~ INGRATITUDE (vs. 42)

2. By way of application, Martin Lloyd-Jones puts it this way: These four expressions counter the self which is the real barrier to agreeableness. For we don't like to be embarrassed, cheated, manipulated or inconvenienced. But can you define a relationship that would improve if you were willing for embarrassment, to be cheated, manipulated or inconvenienced?

- B. And I know I'm O.K. when I treat others fairly, for this, too, is one of God's absolutes for His children. (Matt. 7:12)

1. Not as an insurance against future actions
2. Not as a way to buy obligations for the future
3. Only in sincerity will this law work

I read this as
1) Crestive
2) Impartial

Significance to the discipline experience
1. Home
2. work
Dignity
destroy

JACK SPERRY

6. Fairness

C.S. Lewis sees this Application

C-1 *7. Love*
Further, I know I'm O.K. when I love, for surely this is the most estimable of God's absolutes for His children. (Matt. 5:43-47)

L. A love which involves all people. Linus' cop-out doesn't help us: "I love humanity; it's people I can't stand!"

Probably Ivan Carroll has said it for us all: "To dwell above with the saints we love; O, that will be glory! But to dwell below with the people we know: That's a different story!"

And it also avoids another famous escape of the holiness people. I have to love him, but I don't have to like him. That, too, is a judgment against a person, affirming there are things about you that I cannot stand.

2. It is a love which involves all situations. Toy with this question for awhile: "What could I do to make you stop loving me?"

D. I know I'm O.K. when I am generous, for God expects that of His children. (Matt. 6:1-4) The trait of generosity is not common among us anymore.

when we have a known relationship
E. I know I'm O.K. when my discipleship is clearly identifiable, for this is surely God's teaching at this point in Matt. 6:24. Discipleship involves two things:

1. A choice
2. A commitment evidenced in such things as:
 - a. What I say
 - b. Where I go
 - c. What I do
 - d. How I view the opposition
 - e. What is the absorption of my life

As in politics, so in Christian discipleship.

F. I know I'm O.K. when my values coincide with those values which our Father has said have an eternal worth. (Matt. 6:19-34) Also 7:13-14; 7:6

1. Values are motivational, helping us sort out of the many stimuli that which we will do.

WHAT A GREAT THING FOR US TO "GET HOOKED" ON GOD!

2. Values are integrative; they give FOCUS TO LIFE. It seems that people roam around so much in the Christian life. Values are needed.

3. Values are consistent. (Illus: Elton Trueblood who said in the midst of the Viet Nam Conflict that you can't choose you war in which to be a pacifist; it is a consistent way of life) People tend to change values according to the situation in which they find themselves.

G. I know that I'm O.K. when I have settled the question of materialism. (See Matt. 6:19-34) *THIS IS AN ISSUE AMONG US.*

H. The materialist has his own measure: Mrs. Beehler
2. The sanctified has his; your father knoweth (personal witness)

C-2
I know I'm O.K. when I'm perfect
Matt 5:48

8. Generous

PRAYER

1. A CERTAINTY AS TO WHOM I AM SERVING

2. VALUES BY WHICH I AM LIVING

G. W.

H.