

What's Missing? The Sanctified Life-The Secret Of Self-Worth

The period of the judges was from 1367BC to 1050BC. This period began after Joshua led the Israelites to take possession of their promised land.

The recurring pattern in the book of Judges.

1. **Sin:** The people fall into sin, as they worship false gods or intermarry with the Canaanites.
2. **Servitude:** The people's sin brings on a period of servitude in which Israel becomes subject to people they once controlled.
3. **Supplication:** After a time in servitude, Israel cries out to God in supplication.
4. **Salvation:** After supplication God raises up a leader to bring the people salvation.

These leaders were called judges. There were 15 of them. Samson was number 13. We have been studying his story in Judges 13-16.

There are several things in the story of Samson that are very disturbing about the way he treats women.

- He sees a woman and orders his parent to get her for him as his wife (Judges 14:1-3)
- He calls this woman his heifer (Judges 14:18)
- He participates in human sex trafficking (Judges 16:1)
- He engages in a relationship with another woman just based on her physical appeal to him (Judges 16:4)

Samson did not have God's perspective about women.

He had a problem that is very common among men. The problem is currently being called the objectification of women.

The objectification of women simply means that a man considers himself to be the subject and women to be objects. As objects, men believe that women exist for their self-gratification.

God created the first man and the first woman in His own image. He created them male and female to work together to have dominion over the whole earth. They were created to rule and reign with God. (Genesis 1:27-28).

But the first man and the first woman fell into sin. And after the fall of man into sin, they rejected God's moral absolutes. The power and leadership of men became corrupt. Violence filled the earth. Men rejected God's view of women and men began to believe the lie that women were objects that existed for their self-gratification. One example of this was that men rejected God's original plan and mission for marriage and began to practice polygamy. And when men wanted a woman but they did not want that woman to be their

wife they began to force women to be concubines. Another example of this is that men began to participate in human sex trafficking.

As a result of the fall of man, many of us as men have had grandfathers, fathers, brothers, or influential friends that objectify women. It is common in some families and in some social groups for the objectification of women to be considered masculine. The media and movies constantly objectify women as sexual objects that exist for men's gratification. Due to the religion in which many men are raised, it is common for many men to consider the objectification of women to be holy.

Being masculine and holy from God's perspective is the opposite of objectifying women. Here is what being masculine and holy looks like to God.

- Honor your father and your mother (Exodus 20:12)
- Honor your wife (1 Peter 3:7)
- Honor younger women as your sisters in Christ in all purity (1 Timothy 5:2)
- Honor widows (1 Timothy 5:3)

The word honor means to esteem. And God is very specific in His Word about how men should honor women.

- Protect them.
- Provide for them.
- Lead them.
- Know them.
- Handle them with gentleness.
- Be sensitive to their feelings.
- Listen carefully to their counsel.
- Love them as Christ loved the church.

Because of the fall, men fail to be Godly and they fail to honor women the way God says to honor them. Many men are good at charming women to get them to satisfy their desires, but they do not honor women. If they win a women's heart, their true attitude toward women will be exposed.

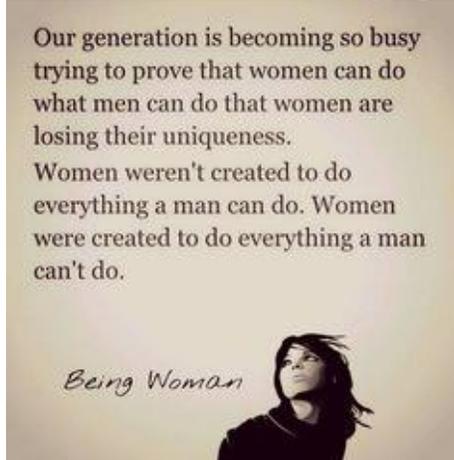
Like Samson it is not difficult to discern when a man has the wrong attitude toward women and will objectify women.

- He has sexual relationships with women outside the commitment of marriage
- He satisfies his lust by watching pornography
- He satisfies his personal desires at the expense of the feelings of the women in his life
- He is embittered and angry when the women in his life stand in opposition to what he wants.
- He degrades them, belittles them, and guilt's them when they disagree with him.
- He finds it very difficult to listen to the feelings of the women in his life without reacting and becoming embittered.

- He expects the women in his life to maintain their affection for him in spite of his personal abuse of himself and their feelings.
- He engages in gross humor about women with other men who are guilty of the objectification of women.

The objectification of women has created a crisis among women in our world.

Women have resorted to trying to prove their worth in all the wrong ways.



The objectification of women has created a crisis in the family.

Because of the rejection among women of God's moral absolutes and their acceptance of divorce, more women feel the freedom to divorce their ungodly husband and find another one.

Most soon discover they married another man with the same problem as their ex-husband.

The objectifying of woman has created a crisis in society.

The objectifying of women has contributed to the growth of homosexuality among women and among men.

This morning I want to call upon all men to consider your personal attitude toward women. If you are married, I want you to ask your wife this question, "What is it like being my wife?" Ask her, "Do you feel honored by me?" Ask her, "Do you feel cherished?"

If you are not married I am sure that there are other women in your life like your mother or your sister that would be glad to tell you how you as a man make them feel.

I want to issue a call to you as a man to become Godly and stop the objectification of the women in your life. It is time to repent. It is time to admit your sin and your wrong attitudes toward women and ask God to change your mind and your heart. If we receive

Jesus, God promises He will give us a new heart and this includes His heart toward women. God gives men and women different roles to fulfill in the family and in the church. But there is no place for the objectifying of women in the church.

I want to call out all women to stop allowing the objectification of women by men to dictate how you feel about yourself.

You may recall that the word honor means to esteem. There are a number of problems that can cause us to have low self-esteem. But there is no question that the objectification of women is a social problem that is creating low self-esteem in many women.

Feelings of low self-esteem are very painful. They lead to....

- Depression
- Discouragement
- Fear and Anxiety (of making a mistake, being rejected, looking foolish or inadequate)
- Hypersensitivity
- Fluctuating Emotions
- Emotional withdraw
- Self-Esteem Attacks (similar to panic attacks)

The most common solution to low self-esteem is performance. For women this can mean anything from being a stripper in a bar, to more socially acceptable achievements like making good grades in school, to dating Mr. Popular, to marrying a handsome man, to being a great athlete, to being the perfect mother and wife, to being successful in business, etc.

There is obviously nothing wrong with being successful but when what is driving you to be successful is low self-esteem you are on a performance treadmill that never stops and you are only as good as your last achievement. When you have a problem with low self-esteem you will compromise to get ahead and make some very poor decisions. These all add to the emotions I previously listed. Low self-esteem is one of the main causes of the billions being spent each year on prescription medications. It is also one of the causes of the billions being spent each year on substance abuse.

Feelings of low self-esteem come from thoughts that you are not valuable or important and certainly the objectification of women is contributing to this problem. But behind the scenes there is a spiritual force that has been responsible for this problem since the fall of man. Satan seeks to destroy anyone or anything that glorifies God. He could not have come up with a better plan than attacking the souls of those who are the main care takers of each new generation of children, mothers.

If you are suffering from low self-esteem you are not going to be the kind of mother you want to be to your children. Your drive to perform will not solve your problem with self-

esteem and it will damage your children. Your children will feel like there is nothing they can do that is good enough to please you.

So as a woman, if you want to get off the self-esteem performance treadmill, what do you do? And if you are bitter at men for treating you like an object, what do you do?

The answer is found in the truth of God's Word and in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- You are a spiritual being created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27)
- You are chosen by God to rule and reign with Him (Gen. 1:28; Rev. 1:5-6)
- You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:13-14)
- You are created to walk with Almighty God (Micah 6:8; Romans 8:1)

In order for God to walk with you He had to do something about your sin problem. In order for you to walk with God you must believe in what God did about your sin problem. It is called the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- God died for your sin (Isaiah 53:5-6; Romans 5:8)
- God forgives all your sins (Col. 2:13)
- God credits the righteousness of Jesus to your account (2 Cor. 5:21)
- God makes you the temple of His Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19)
- God calls you His child (John 1:12)
- God makes you a partaker of His divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)
- God makes you a significant member of His church, the bride of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-14)
- God makes available to you the riches of Christ (Romans 8:16-17)
- God prepares a place for you to be with Him for eternity (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)
- God wants you to rule and reign with Him. (Rev. 1:5-6)

For you to overcome feelings of low self-esteem and get off the performance treadmill, based on these truths, you have to change your mind about who you are and what you are. You have to stop believing the lies that you hear in your head and the lies that you hear from the men in your life. You have to stop finding your identity in your humanity and find it in who you are spiritually. You have to stop being the victim and become the victor through Jesus Christ.

[\(Video Testimony by Shirley Werner\)](#)

- Emotions are powerful.

Shame, anxiety, anger, and grief will all cause depression if they are left unchecked. There are around 365 admonitions in the bible that say, "Do not fear." Fear is anxiety or worry. You cannot afford to lose this battle. If you do not learn to control your emotions, they will control you, your relationships, and your future.

- Emotions do not change easily.

You have to address the needs of your whole being to control your emotions. Yes, this needs to begin with spiritual commitments and changing the way you think about God, yourself, and your life. But to gain control over your emotions, you have to address your whole being. You can start making changes to your mind and what you believe but you are not going to gain control of your emotions if you are self-destructive. You have to sleep well and eat right. You need to exercise and take Sabbath rests. There are times when you may need to do something medically to help your body chemistry before emotions will change. You may have to start avoiding certain activities that cause unhealthy emotions for you. You may have to start avoiding certain people. You have to stop any self-abuse through substance abuse. You have to stop abusing yourself and others with sin.

You are going to have to do more than come to church once a week to reprogram your brain and your belief system and develop new habits. You have to be more intentional about the Word of God and the truth in God's Word than listening to sermon once a week. I recommend you read God's Word every day. I recommend that you study God's Word. I recommend that you memorize God's Word. I recommend that you get connected and share life with some other believers who are sharing the truth with one another and helping each other develop new habits in the way we live.

There are times when you need deliverance through much prayer from the oppression of spiritual forces.

- Emotions cannot always be changed quickly.

Emotions like severe grief will never change quickly. You have to learn how to manage the emotion of grief because it does not

Invitation

Will you receive Jesus Christ as your personal savior?

Will you reject the lies that you have believed about yourself and will you believe in God's Word and the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Will you get off the performance tread mill and base your worth on the Word of God?

Will you join a small group of believers who are sharing life together and practicing team discipleship?