

Weekly Mom's Devotional

Week 5: How Does God See You

We are in a time where we are feeling isolated and alone. It's just our immediate family at home to keep us company. If you are a mom whose husband is still able to work from home, you are mostly alone with just your kids. Adults sometimes need time to chat with other adults and also need some more engaging conversation every now and then. Now more than ever, when there is not a better place to turn, we go to Facebook, Instagram, or some other social media format to meet our needs for friendship and connection with the outside world. Maybe sometimes this allows us to feel a part of other people's lives; maybe sometimes this helps us feel less alone. But we also have to be careful that it is not making us feel badly about ourselves, our lives, our families, or our accomplishments.

We, as humans, compare ourselves to others a lot, and this can be very dangerous. We could feel like we're getting so much done, and then we look online and see that someone has done even more. We could feel that we look pretty good on a given day (even without makeup and in our pjs) and then see someone online who looks gorgeous and thinks they're having a bad hair day. We may think we're killing it as a mom, being crafty with our kids, but then see a picture of someone with their Pinterest-worthy, complex art project. These experiences can make us feel small and as though we didn't hit the mark of whom we should be and what we should do. But what is this mark that we're trying to hit? What is the standard we are trying to reach? If we were so happy, then why do we feel so down after comparing ourselves to someone else?

Now I could tell you that those photos and posts are filtered and exaggerated to make things look better than they actually are. I could

list the statistics of how many times those who are posting about their great lives are actually failing and struggling. I could tell you how people post to get attention and to seek approval when they are unable to approve of themselves. However, this is not about them. This is about who we are! We are God's children, and therefore royalty and loved beyond measure by a perfect, no-filter-needed God! We shouldn't be looking to social media or anyone in order to find who we are or where we stand. We can find out exactly who we are by reading who God says we are in the Bible!

First, let's look at who we aren't! In Romans 8:1, we see that we are not condemned!

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Second, let's consider how God doesn't look at us the way others look at us or how we look at others. When man looks at how we look or act, God looks at our hearts.

1 Samuel 16:7 - But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Instead of listening to the judgements of the world, the only judge we should listen to is God, the loving Judge who teaches us, forgives us, and sees the beauty in us.

*Psalm 139:23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any ^[a]hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.*

Finally, who does God say we are exactly? How does He describe His children? How should we view ourselves? The Bible tells us who we are in Him!

You are fearfully and wonderfully made! (Psalm 139:14)

You are God's masterpiece! (Ephesians 2:10)

God knows you! (Psalm 139:1)

You are God's children! (1 John 3:1)

God loves you! (1 John 3:1)

You are forgiven! (Ephesians 1:7)

You are healed! (Isaiah 53:5)

You are free! (Romans 8:2)

You are more than a conqueror! (Romans 8:37)

You are made perfect in Christ's blood! (Colossians 1:22)

You are a temple of the Holy Spirit! (1 Corinthians 6:19)

You are an ambassador for Christ! (2 Corinthians 5:20)

You are a light in the dark world! (Matthew 5:14)

You are a world changer! (Matthew 28:19)

So, next time you compare yourself with someone and begin to think that you are inferior, think again! God loves you more than you could even comprehend! He loves you enough to die for you (John 3:16). He loves you enough to forgive you over and over! He will never stop loving you! If God made you in His image and loves you so abundantly, then it would be insulting to Him to even entertain any

word or thought that makes you out to be anything less than what He says about you! Living pleased with how He made us and how He is working in our lives is not haughty or bragging on ourselves, but boasting about Him and bringing Him glory!

Let us be different than the world and lift one another up and encourage each other. We may not be able to do that in person right now, but we can use social media to encourage and affirm each other. We can call, video call, message, text, email, and write letters, to lift one another up during this time! We can also pray for each other!

Lord, I lift up everyone at Calvary during this time of isolation. I pray that you will reveal Your love and presence to them, now more than ever! I pray that you will give each of us opportunities to speak love and encouragement to each other! I pray that you will put it on our hearts to pray for those who need connection and encouragement the most. I pray that we will be able to stay connected with one another during this time. I pray that what the enemy meant for evil will turn out for good, in Jesus's name! Help us to look to You for all our needs, including companionship, but to also reach out when we need a friend. Thank you for making us wonderful! Thank you for loving us so deeply! Thank you for never forsaking us! We love you Lord! In Jesus' name! Amen

Song: *Who You Say I Am - Hillsong*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcC1Bp13n_4

Scripture verses:

*I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well. - Psalm 139:14*

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. -
Ephesians 2:10

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. - Psalm 139:1

See ^[a]how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. - 1 John 3:1

In ^[a]Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. -Ephesians 1:7

But He was ^[a]pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our ^[b]well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed. -Isaiah 53:5

For the law of the Spirit of life ^[a]in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. -Romans 8:2

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. - Romans 8:37

yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— Colossians 1:22

Or do you not know that your body is a ^[a]temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from ^[b]God, and that you are not your own? -
1Corinthians 6:19

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” - 2 Corinthians 5:20

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a ^[a]hill cannot be hidden; -
Matthew 5:14

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,"

Matthew 28:19