

LEARNING - SELF-ESTEEM  
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD  
December 12, 2009

Our ability to learn is a matter of our frame of mind; colloquially, we say it is a matter of the heart - and our heart is in our “chest” - remember that over the next few weeks.

Learning -

“Curiosity = actively seeking to uncover the limitations of your theories, ideas and assessments of the world, so you can improve”

A second factor involved in our ability to learn is our view of “humility”

“Humility = belief that your theories, ideas and assessments of the world are always incomplete”

A third factor involved in our ability to learn is our view of “empathy”

“Empathy” - actively seeking to understand others’ views of the world; listening for coherence

A fourth factor involved in our ability to learn is our “self-esteem

“Self-esteem” - truly knowing yourself, being confident, and feeling comfortable with who you are

Self-esteem in the Old Testament

**Genesis 1:**

- 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."  
27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
  - If we are made in God’s image, we should accept ourselves as being as good as we can be
  - Each of us is, of course, made uniquely
  - We each have different features
  - We each have different skills (gifts)
  - But we are all made in God’s image

**Leviticus 19:**

- 11 'You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.
- 12 'And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.
- 13 'You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.

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- 14 'You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD.
- 15 'You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.
- 16 'You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.
- 17 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.
- 18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the LORD.
  - We need to remember, that, like us, every human being was made in God's image
  - **Loving your neighbor as yourself, means that we are expected to first love ourselves**

**Jeremiah 18:**

- 1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:
- 2 "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words."
- 3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.
- 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.
  - While the clay is still pliable, it can be remolded and reworked
  - Once the clay has been put into the oven and hardened, it can only be destroyed
  - We need to hold dear the words of the hymn "Have thine own way, Lord"
    - Thou art the potter; I am the clay
    - Mold me and make me after **Thy will**

Self-esteem in the New Testament:

**Matthew 19:**

- 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"
  - The "one" who came was a young man with great possessions
- 17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."
- 18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,'"
- 19 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, **'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'**
  - Jesus, also, assumes that we love ourselves

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**Mark 12:**

- 28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"
- 29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.
- 30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.
- 31 "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."
  - Just as He replied to the young rich man, He replied to the scribe.

**Luke 10:**

- 25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
- 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"
- 27 So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"
  - Luke's version gives the same reply to a lawyer
  - Could this be the young rich man? It's possible
  - Luke's version is followed by the story of the Good Samaritan

**Romans 12:**

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable (*literally, rational*) service.
  - Paul says living a life acceptable to God is the only sane thing to do
- 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
  - When you become a true Christian, your way of thinking changes
  - It's not what you have to do to be a Christian; it is what you want to do if you are a Christian.
- 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
  - Paul goes a step further than "love your neighbor as yourself"
  - He doesn't negate having self-esteem
  - Paul simply admonishes us to keep it in perspective
  - We should love our neighbor as ourselves means **equally**
- 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
- 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
  - Others have gifts that are different than yours

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- Those gifts are not inferior, nor superior to yours
- 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
- 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
- 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.
  - Hypocrisy comes from the Greek word meaning “two faced”
  - It came out of the Greek theater when they held masks indicating the mood, while the actor’s true mood may well have been quite different
  - Paul follows with instructions regarding how to live a truly Christian life.
- 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
  - By showing affection to one another, we are honoring God
- 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
  - By being diligent and strong in our actions, we are honoring God
- 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
  - We can only rejoice with one another if we share our joyous events
  - We must also be patient when things don’t go well
  - And prayer is at the crux of both
- 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
  - When you are hospitable to others, you are putting their needs ahead of your own
- 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
  - Oops. Paul slips that one in.
  - He knows this is difficult for us
  - He also knows it is critical
  - Matthew 6:
    - 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
  - In the same manner as we judge, we will be judged
- 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.
  - Hold to your opinion, but realize you just might be wrong!
- 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.
- 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
  - It may not be possible
  - Paul puts the challenge on us to try to live peaceably
  - And it is with all people – not just our friends
- 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.
  - Let go and let God
  - He will take care of things – in His own time and way

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- 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."
- 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Romans 13:**

- 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.
- 8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
  - Equally!
- 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

**Romans 9:**

- 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"
  - God has made us each in His image, but with different skills, gifts and personal traits

**1 Corinthians 12:**

- 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.
- 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
- 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.
- 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
- 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
- 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?
- 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
- 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?
- 20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.
- 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."
- 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
- 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty,

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- 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,
- 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.
- 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
- 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- 28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.
- 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?
- 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?
- 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

**Galatians 5:**

- 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!
  - When we act unseemly to others, they tend to respond in kind
  - Violence begets violence
- 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

**James 2:**

- 8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;
  - Again – equally!
- 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
- 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.
  - We have studied the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible, and we know there is nothing in it that is hard to do
  - Keeping the Sabbath may be one of the most difficult
  - However, loving our neighbor equally as we love ourselves may be **the** most difficult
  - It assumes we have self-esteem first.
  - It is a commandment.

***For you, today = love yourself first; but don't put yourself first!!!***