

**“Your True Worth Through God’s Eyes”**  
**Session 2: The Performance Trap**  
**Rev. Rick Dietzman**  
**September 23, 2012**

**INTRODUCTION**

Lies build over time into:

**Fear: something bad is about to happen**

**Abandonment: feeling forsaken, deserted, rejected**

**Guilt: carrying blame, no forgiveness in sight**

**Shame: hiding, something is wrong with me**

“If you dwell in my words” - in what I say

Jesus said: *“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* John 8:32 (NIV)

**I. The Performance Trap**

False Beliefs:

I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.

Self worth = Performance + Other’s opinions

FEAR OF FAILURE:

- Avoiding certain activities because you are not good at them, and may face ridicule.
- Becoming nervous and anxious at the thought of messing up
- Unexplained anxiety
- Being a perfectionist and becoming depressed when you fail
- Compelled to explain all or most mistakes
- Angry with those who interfere with attempts to succeed
- Being self critical

Beliefs about God:

- I need to please Him
- God is out to get me if I mess up
- I must obey and do right or I am in danger of a grievous consequence
- I'll be ashamed if I don't obey
- If I do well, then God will bless me

**Q: What is true and false about these beliefs?**

The addiction to success: "Only a little bit more" J. Paul Getty

## **II. Why Success or Failure is not the basis of our self worth**

### **God's Answer - Justification**

God has not only forgiven me of my sins but also has granted me the righteousness of Christ. Because of justification, I bear Christ's righteousness, and I am therefore fully pleasing to the Father.

Definitions:

**Justified:** placed in right standing before God through Christ's death on the cross, which paid for our sins. It means we are "declared righteous".

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. Romans 5:1-2*

*For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:10-11*

**Righteousness:** a characteristic of God, meaning essentially the same as His faithfulness and truthfulness. We have right standing with God through Christ.

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)*

*For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)*

### **III. Obstacles to Receiving the Truth**

A negative view of God

The approval of others

The need to control (including a preference for rules)

### **IV. Motivations for an identity based on Justification**

#### **Christ's love**

*"We love because He first loved us" John 4:19 p46*

**Sin is short sighted.** It promises but doesn't deliver. It is destructive

*Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:13*

#### **The Father's discipline is for our benefit**

*Have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you.*

*For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?*

*For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Hebrews 12:5-1*

### **God's instruction is good for us**

*The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. Psalm 19:7*

### **There are Eternal Rewards**

*On the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. 1 Corinthians 3:13-14*

### **We do it all for the Glory of God**

*Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. Romans 1:5*

### **For your reflection time on your own**

- A. How does fear of failure influence your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. What significant truth from God's word helps you with the fear of failure?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. What self-righteousness would you like to let go of?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D. What is an area God is disciplining in your life right now, in order to conform you to His purposes?

Coming up....

September 30<sup>th</sup> - The Approval Trap

The audio and notes for this and previous sessions of this series are available at [www.sequimcommunitychurch.org](http://www.sequimcommunitychurch.org) in the Sunday Seminar section