

Biblical Counseling Center publishes eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

The Fingerprints of God

By Karen Coulter, M.A.

"I have low self-esteem." Counselees frequently come in with this presenting problem, having their identity wrapped up in how they are seen by family, friends and others around them. How do we answer them and what does the Bible say?



You are made in the image of God (Gen 1:26,27). God said everything he made was good (Gen 1:31) – this still means you! God doesn't make mistakes and God doesn't make junk. When we criticize the way God made us, we are criticizing the Creator God and His design.

You are sinful and your attempts to be good are fruitless (Rom 3:10-18, 23 – this passage describes man's depravity). We have nothing to boast about in and of ourselves. All of the good you can achieve adds up to filthy rags in God's eyes (Isa 64:6).

Therefore, your worth is not found in yourself but in God (2Cor 10:17). If your worth is in yourself and your greatness, that would be pride. Your identity should not be found in what others think of you (that changes with the wind!) or how you compare to others (who will you choose, one to idolize or one to belittle?) (2Cor 10:12-15). You are of value because God made you, period. All of your gifts, talents and abilities are from Him.

- You are **wonderfully** made (Ps 139:14).
- You are created for His glory (Isa 43:7) and for **His pleasure** (Rev 4:11).
- You are created with **gifts** from Him (Rom 12:6, 1Cor 12:4-11).
- You are **loved** (Rom 5:8), **chosen** (Jn 15:16), and **accepted** (Eph 1:6) by God.

The focus of **self-esteem** (*self-love*) should be shifted to your **identity** in Christ. When you see yourself as inferior and inadequate, you become self-focused. You may become fearful, bitter, or depressed. You will fail to use your talents for God because you believe you don't measure up. But to swing the opposite way to think more highly of yourself than you ought is also wrong and prideful. Your relationships with God and others will be hindered either way. So high self-esteem is not the solution that honors God.

Embrace your identity in Christ! He made you. He has a plan and a purpose for you. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor 6:19,20). You are here to serve Him and not yourself. You have the privilege of using your talents and gifts for His glory. The fingerprints of God are all over you. What are you doing with **His masterpiece**?

The Fingerprints Of God – by Steven Curtis Chapman

I can see the tears filling Your eyes ?And I know where they're coming from ?They're coming from a heart that's broken in two ?By what you don't see ?The person in the mirror ?Doesn't look like the magazine ?Oh, but when I look at you it's clear to me that...

I can see the fingerprints of God ?When I look at you ?I can see the fingerprints of God ?And I know it's true ?You're a masterpiece ?That all creation quietly applauds ?And you're covered with the fingerprints of God

*Never has there been and never again ?Will there be another you ?Fashioned by God's hand ?And perfectly planned ?To be just who you are ?And what He's been creating ? Since the first beat of your heart ?Is a living breathing priceless work of art and... **you're covered with the fingerprints of God.***

*Just look at you ?You're a wonder in the making ?Oh, and God's not through, no ?In fact, He's just getting started and...**you're covered with the fingerprints of God.***

*Are you putting your identity in God or in people and your performance?
Are you reflecting God's character in your life?
Are you using your gifts and talents for His glory?*

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