

when Jesus calls His disciples to deny self and to take up His yoke and His cross, He is calling them to a self-giving love, not a self-satisfying love. Until the advent of humanistic psychology and its heavy influence in the church, Christians generally thought of self-esteem as a sinful attitude.

Even though the Bible does not teach self-love, self-esteem, self-worth, or self-actualization as virtues, helps, or goals, a vast number of present-day Christians have been deceived by the self-teachings of humanistic psychology. Rather than resisting the enticement of the world they become culture-bound. Not only do they not resist the tidal wave of selfism; they are riding the crest of self-esteem, self-acceptance, and self-love. One can hardly tell the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian in the area of the self, except that the Christian adds God as the main source for his self-esteem, self-acceptance, self-worth, and self-love.

Through slogans, one-liners, and twisted Scripture, many professing Christians jump on the existential bandwagon of humanistic psychology and set up their own cheering section. Thus, any criticism voiced against the teachings of self-worth, self-love, and self-esteem is regarded as *ipso facto* proof that the speaker wants people to be miserable. Moreover, any criticism against the self-esteem movement is seen as dangerous to society, since self-esteem is considered to be the panacea for its ills. Then, in the church, if one does not wholly endorse a self-esteem theology, he is accused of promoting worm theology.

If there is one thing the world and many in the church have in common these days, it's the psychology of self-esteem. Although professing Christians may disagree about some of the nuances of self-esteem, self-worth, and self-acceptance, and even on some of the finer points of definition and how it is attained, too many have joined forces against what they believe is a formidable enemy--low self-esteem. Yet, even the world cannot justify promoting high self-esteem through its own methods of research.

### No Research Justification for Self-Esteem

A few years ago, the California legislature passed a bill creating the "California Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility." The legislature funded the bill with \$245,000 a year for three years, for a total of \$735,000. The twofold title of the Task Force was quite an assumption. No one has ever demonstrated that promoting self-esteem is in any way related to personal and social responsibility. Nor has anyone proved that all those who exhibit personal and social responsibility have high self-esteem. Self-esteem and social and personal responsibility actually appear to be negatively rather than positively related.

The Mission Statement of the Task Force is as follows: Seek to determine whether self-esteem, and personal and social responsibility are the keys to unlocking the secrets of healthy human development so that we can get...

*Continued on the next issue.*

# Bible Baptist Church Bulletin

*Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set (Prov. 22:28).*

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## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Ministries

1. Bible Studies
2. Tract Drop
3. Door-Knocking
4. Personal Evangelism
5. Missions

### Position

1. Independent
2. KJV 1611
3. Baptist
4. Old-Fashioned
5. Soulwinning
6. Premillennial
7. Non-Charismatic
8. Unaffiliated

### Church Services

#### Sunday:

- 9:30 am — Sunday School  
10:30 am — Worship Service  
6:15 pm — Evening Service

#### Wednesday:

- 6:30 pm — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

## Self-Esteem for Christians?

*By: Biblical Discernment Ministries*

Do children and adults really need self-esteem? Does low self-esteem lead to serious life problems? Should parents attempt to build self-esteem in their children? Does the Bible encourage self-esteem? Many Christians have assumptions about self-esteem. But, what does the Bible say? What does research say?

### The Genesis of Self-Esteem

The self-esteem movement has its most recent roots in clinical psychology, namely in the personality theories of such men as **William James, Alfred Adler, Erich Fromm, Abraham Maslow, and Carl Rogers**. It became further popularized by their many followers. Nevertheless, the roots of the self-esteem movement reach further back into human history.

The self-esteem movement began in the third chapter of Genesis. Initially, Adam and Eve were God-conscious and aware of one another and their surroundings rather than being self-conscious. Their awareness of themselves was incidental and peripheral to their focus on God and one another. Adam realized that Eve was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, but he was not self-aware in the same sense that his descendants would be. Self was not the issue until the Fall.

Partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil did not bring godly wisdom. It brought guilt, fear, and separation from God. Thus, when Adam and Eve heard God approaching, they hid in the bushes. But God saw them and asked, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" (Genesis 3:11).

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## Announcements and Prayer Request

### CHURCH SCHEDULE

#### Sunday:

**9:30 am** — Sunday School  
**10:30 am** — Worship Service  
**6:15 pm** — Evening Service

#### Wednesday:

**6:30 pm** — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

#### Saturday:

**8:00 am** — Door-Knocking & Tract Distribution

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Good health and healing of Mrs. Macale's illness.
- Tract-Drop and Door-knocking on Saturday.
- Church services at Bible Baptist Church, Kalgoorlie.

#### **Church Bulletin**

For those who have prayer requests, Christian articles, poems, or announcements for inclusion in the next issue of the Church Bulletin, please ring or email Ethel Macale.  
 Deadline: Friday, 5:00 pm.  
 Phone: (08) 9022 8323  
 Email: ethel@macale.org

- Miriam's health, and her buying for a new car.
- Pastor Eugene Macale's ministries: Bible Baptist Mission (Liloan, Southern Leyte, Philippines): soulwinning, door-knocking, Bible studies in Philippine Port Authority, public schools, and villages, and pray for his ministry's financial needs.
- Dondoy (Pastor Macale's brother) from alcoholism.
- Baptist Fellowship Meetings, September 28 - October 1, 2009, Calvary Baptist Church, Armadale, WA.
- Edna, Pastor Eugene Macale's sister-in-law, for healing of stage 4 cancer and her undergoing on chemotherapy in Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines
- Pastor Jerry Penie's buying a new car.
- Kylie Mell's (Chris' wife) healing from multiple sclerosis.

#### **Websites worth visiting:**

<http://www.biblebaptist.net.au>  
<http://www.oldkjv.org>  
<http://www.macale.org>  
<http://www.av1611.info>  
<http://www.kjv1611.org.ph>  
<http://www.biblebaptist.ph>

### **Self-Esteem...** *Continued from page 1*

#### **Sinful Self**

Adam and Eve answered with the first example of self-justification. First, Adam blamed Eve and God, and then Eve blamed the serpent. The fruit of the knowledge of good and evil spawned the sinful self with all of its self-love, self-esteem, self-acceptance, self-justification, self-righteousness, self-actualization, self-denigration, self-pity, and other forms of self-focus and self-centeredness.

The present Self-Etc. movement is thus rooted in Adam and Eve's sin. Through the centuries, mankind has continued to feast at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which has spread its branches of worldly wisdom. It has branched out into the vain philosophies of men and, more recently, the "scientized" philosophies and metaphysics of modern psychology.

Religious incantations for self-worth, self-love, and self-acceptance ooze out of the TV tube, drift across radio waves, and entice through advertising. From the cradle to the grave, self-promoters promise to cure all of society's ills through doses of self-esteem, self-worth, self-acceptance, and self-love. And everyone, or nearly everyone echoes the refrain: "You just need to love and accept yourself the way you are. You just need to forgive yourself" and "I just have to accept myself the way I am. I'm worth it. I am a lovable, valuable, forgivable person."

#### **Christian Response to the World**

How is the Christian to combat the thinking of the world, which glorifies the

self and places self at the center as the be-all and end-all of existence? How is the Christian to be faithful to our Lord's command to be in the world, but not of the world? Can he adopt and adapt the popular philosophy/psychology of his culture, or must he stand apart as one who has been set apart by God and view his culture by the light of the Word? Jesus said: ***Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light*** (Matthew 11:28-30).

Here is a call to give up one's own way and to come under the yoke of humility and service--an emphasis on yoking--on a teaching and living relationship. Jesus described His call for followers in different words, but to the same relationship and with the same intent, when He said: ***If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it*** (Matthew 16:24-25).

#### **No Self-Love Commandment**

Jesus does not command self-love, but rather love for God and love for one another. The Bible presents an entirely different basis for love than humanistic psychology preaches. Rather than promoting self-love as the basis for loving others, the Bible says that God's love is the true source. Human love is mixed with self-love and may be ultimately self-serving. But God's love is self-giving. Therefore,