

“The Reality of Rejection”
Sunday, November 1, 2015
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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the NIV Bible.

Scripture Reading:

“Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me” Psalm 66:20 (ESV).

“The most penetrating wound in life is rejection from a loved one. Yet, nothing is more healing than to know our Lord accepts us. When our pain seems endless and tender to the touch, He holds us with His heart of love until there is total healing.” June Hunt

What is Rejection?

Webster defines rejection as: to refuse to accept, consider, submit to, take for some purpose, or use to refuse to hear, receive, or admit

Rejection, simply defined, is the sense of being unwanted, the feeling that although you want people to love you, no one does. Or it is wanting to be part of a group, but feeling excluded—somehow always being on the outside looking in.

Biblical Definitions:

In Greek the verb *apodokimazo* means “to reject as the result of examination and disapproval.”

Matthew 21:42 “Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

In Greek the verb *atheteo* means “to do away with, set aside, reject or disesteem.”

Mark 7:9 “And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”

Jesus was rejected by the society and religious leadership of His day.

“He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like One from Whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him” Isaiah 53:3 (AMP).

Jesus was Rejected so that we could receive Acceptance.

1 Samuel 12:22 “For the sake of his great name the Lord will not reject his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own.”

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” Isaiah 53:4-5 (ASV).

God’s Heart on Rejection

If we reject Jesus, He will reject us.

“But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” Matthew 10:33 (KJV).

Those who reject Christ’s followers are, in fact, rejecting Christ.

Luke 10:16 “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

Those who reject the truth of God will receive the wrath of God.

Romans 2:8 “But for those who are self- seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.”

Rejection Produces Rejection

Know the Rejection Cycle – June Hunt

Rejection – rejection brings on feelings of worthlessness.

Worthlessness – feeling worthless brings on self-hate.

Self-hate – invites negative behavior in order to alleviate the pain.

Negative behavior – reproduces more rejection.

Rejection

“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up”
Psalm 27:10 (KJV).

“Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me”
Psalm 66:20 (KJV).

Worthlessness

John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

1 John 3:16 “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

Self-Hate

Jeremiah 31:3 “The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

Romans 8:1 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...”

Negative Behavior

Galatians 5:19-26 “The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”

Breaking Free from the Cycle of Rejection

Ungodly Belief: When I’m rejected, I feel worthless. I feel my worth depends on how well I perform and what others think about me.

Godly Belief: When I am rejected, I don’t like it. Yet, my worth is based not on what others think about me, but on the price Christ paid by dying for me, and the fact that He lives in me.

You Are Accepted Even When You Feel Rejected.

“Nothing is so devastating as rejection; nothing so strengthening as loving acceptance.”

Say to the Lord:

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that I am deeply loved by You.

1 John 3:1 “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that I am totally accepted by You.

Romans 15:7 “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that I am completely forgiven by You.

Colossians 3:13 “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

“Do you feel ravaged, even ruined by rejection? Remember, feelings are a false measure of truth. If you live by your feelings you’re letting the tail wag the dog. Live by the fact that you are accepted by the Lord—by Christ who is in you, who will never leave nor forsake you.” *June Hunt*