

What God Sees In Us

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you ever heard someone ask, “What does she see in him?” or “What does he see in her?”
 - A. That question arises when someone in a relationship seems to be blind to who the other person truly is, to their qualities, or lack thereof, expressed in their attitudes and actions.
 - B. Well, that question seems quite valid when one considers that the perfectly loving, holy, and pure God of Heaven has chosen to have a loving relationship with us, with humans, who have shown ourselves to be anything but perfectly loving, holy, and pure.
2. So, questions arise concerning how God can do this? Is God blind to who we truly are? Does he choose to ignore the realities of our lives to connect with us?
3. I want to address this subject because knowing the biblical answers to such questions is of great value to those who seek to live and serve God acceptably in Christ by helping us appreciate what God has done in Christ and how it changes everything for the saved.
4. So, to address this I want to focus on **what God sees in us** by...
 - A. Considering what He **sees in all people**, or what commonalities God **sees between every person’s life on this earth**.
 - B. Considering what God **sees in His people**, or **those in Christ**.

BODY:

I. What God sees in all people:

A. God sees someone to **love**:

1. This is evidenced in God creating humans in His image, or likeness.
 - a. In the beginning God made all the animals, creeping things, etc., “after their kind” (Gen. 1:24-25 – “Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures **after their kind**: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so. ²⁵ God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.”).
 - b. Note the infinite difference in God’s creation of mankind (Gen. 1:26a, 27 – “Then God said, “Let Us make man **in Our image**, according to **Our likeness**;...²⁷ God **created man in His own image**, in the **image of God** He created him; **male and female He created them**.”).
 - i. The Godhead created us to have a nature like their own—like the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. When God sees you and me, He sees someone made in the likeness of the divine, which is required for a truly loving relationship with man.
2. Seen in how God has giving us special blessings.
 - a. God expressed His love by giving humans a special place in creation over all other living things (Gen. 1:26 – “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”).
 - b. God expressed great love in blessing humans with the role of filling the earth and subduing it for our life and good (Gen. 1:28-29).
 - c. We see it in God providing the garden for man (Gen. 2:8-9 – “The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and **there He placed the man** whom He had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground **the LORD God caused to grow** every tree that is **pleasing to the sight and good for food**; the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”).
 - d. We see it in God making Eve, a woman, helper, and companion “comparable to man” because **it was not good that man should be alone** (2:18).
3. It is seen in God’s continuous care for all mankind, whether good or evil (Matt. 5:44-45 – “But I say to you, **love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ **so that you**

may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”).

4. When God sees humanity he sees those that He truly loves!

B. God sees someone seemingly **unlovable**—someone who **rejects His love in sin**:

1. From the beginning God saw Adam and Eve reject Him and believe the serpent (Gen. 3:2-6 – “The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the **trees** of the garden **we may eat**; ³ but from the fruit of the **tree** which is in the middle of the garden, **God has said**, ‘You **shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.**’” ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **desirable to make one wise**, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”).

a. God gave them, as He does us today, all the things they needed to enjoy life without sin and its consequences.

b. Yet, God’s love was rejected in hopes of **gaining the one thing God forbade**, the one thing that would bring **death!**

2. God saw sin continue into Noah’s day when the world as a whole rejected His love (Gen. 6:5-6, 12 – “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and **that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** ⁶ The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart... ¹² God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for **all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.**”).

a. God saw that his creation did not care that a holy, loving God created them in His image.

b. He saw that creation cared not that He provided all they needed for life and good.

c. He saw selfish, self-centered, rebellious people bent on their own destruction.

3. God continues to see his prized creation reject his love in rebellion today.

a. The world does not love God (Jn. 14:15 – “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”). The world does not do this!

b. Instead, God has and continues to witness mankind’s choice of death in sin.

i. Rom. 5:12 – “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and **death through sin**, and so **death spread to all men, because all sinned.**”

ii. Rom. 3:23 – “for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.”

4. Make no mistake, God is not blind to the sinful condition of all people everywhere, and it matters to Him!

C. God sees someone **worth dying for**.

1. That defies all human reasoning!

a. Now, humans will die for other humans (Rom. 5:7 – “For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.”).

b. But choosing to die for one who hates you, who lives to oppose you, is another matter!

2. Yet, God has shown the greatest of all love by Jesus dying for sinners (Rom. 5:6-10 – “For while we were still helpless, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly.** ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸ But **God demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** ⁹ Much more then, having now **been justified** by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if **while we were enemies** we were **reconciled to God through the death of His Son**, much more, having been reconciled, **we shall be saved by His life.**”).

a. God demonstrated love for the **ungodly**—those contrary to His ways, holiness, love, goals!

b. That love was expressed in great sacrifice resulting in sinners being **justified**, or made righteous, being **reconciled**, or brought near to God, and **saved** from His wrath!

D. When God looks upon all people everywhere, He **sees...**

1. Those he has always desired to love.
2. Those who continually show themselves seemingly unlovable by sin and rebellion!
3. Those who are worth dying for!

II. What God sees in His people:

A. God sees someone who has left sin and death.

1. They have heeded the **gospel's call** which changes everything (2 Thess. 2:13-14 – “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren **beloved by the Lord**, because God **has chosen you** from the beginning **for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.** ¹⁴ **It was for this He called you through our gospel**, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”).
 - a. So, God see those who have heeded the gospel call as **His beloved**.
 - i. I know God loves the world and sent His Son to die for the world (Jn. 3:16).
 - ii. But it is only through answering the gospel's call that become one of **His beloved**.
 - iii. For, while **love unrequited is useless** for us, when we respond to God's love He receives us to himself and showers the fullness of the benefits of His love upon us!
 - iv. As a Christian, you need to see yourself as especially loved by God!
 - b. God sees those who answer the gospel call as those **chosen for salvation**.
 - i. When one meets God's conditions of **believing the truth** of the gospel (Rom. 10:17) and obeying it (2 Thess. 1:6-8), that person is then **chosen for salvation**.
 - ii. But, how can God choose sinners?
2. They are washed, **cleansed** of sin, and therefore **sanctified** (holy) and **justified** (righteous) before Him (1 Cor. 6:9-11 – “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ **Such were some of you**; but you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the **name of the Lord Jesus Christ** and in the **Spirit of our God**.”).
 - a. God sees the sin we commit before coming into Christ—sin that if persisted in would keep us out of heaven.
 - b. But upon coming into Christ by faith and baptism, God **sees us** differently, as those washed clean of our sin (Acts 22:16 – “Now why do you delay? Get up and **be baptized**, and **wash away your sins**, calling on His name.””).
 - c. Upon coming into Christ, God still sees **us**, but now **sees** what **we have become**, which is His beloved, cleansed, holy, and righteous people! If you are saved, that is who you are!
 - d. How can God see us this way?
3. God sees someone who is **forgiven** through the blood of Christ.
 - a. God's work in Christ made it possible for Him to be *just* while also *justifying*, or making righteous, those who have sinned **but now believe** (Rom. 3:23-26).
 - b. For, through Christ's death and shedding of his righteous blood we are the **forgiven ones** (Eph. 1:7-8 – “**In Him** we have **redemption** through His **blood**, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us...”).
 - i. Sin that once tainted our souls is gone, washed away by the blood of Christ.
 - ii. We need to realize that when we are baptized we are raised with Christ as those spiritually circumcised of our sin (Col. 2:11-13 – “and **in Him** you were also **circumcised with a circumcision made without hands**, in the **removal of the body of the flesh** by the circumcision of Christ; ¹² having been **buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God**, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ When you were **dead in your transgressions** and the **uncircumcision of your flesh**, He **made you alive together with Him**, having **forgiven us all our transgressions**”).

- c. So, when God sees one of His children in Christ, He sees a **righteous person** because they **are righteous**, having been **forgiven** of their sins! Their sins have been removed.
- B. God sees someone who has been **raised to newness of life**.
1. They have been raised with Christ in baptism to walk in **newness of life** (Rom. 6:1-4 – “What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin** so that grace may increase? ² **May it never be!** How shall we **who died to sin** still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** have been **baptized into His death**? ⁴ Therefore **we have been buried with Him through baptism into death**, so that as **Christ was raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, so **we too might walk in newness of life**.”).
 - a. When we come out of the waters of baptism, we are not who we were before!
 - b. We are people who have died to our former life, but now live with Christ!
 2. They live a changed life (Rom. 6:15-19 – “What then? **Shall we sin** because we are not under law **but under grace**? **May it never be!** ¹⁶ Do you not know that when **you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience**, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, **either of sin resulting in death**, or of **obedience resulting in righteousness**? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became **obedient from the heart to that form of teaching** to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been **freed from sin**, you became **slaves of righteousness**. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you **presented your members as slaves to impurity** and to **lawlessness**, resulting in further lawlessness, **so now present your members as slaves to righteousness**, resulting in **sanctification**.”).
 - a. Though saved through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, God’s still **sees my actions** and demands that **I put sin away** and **do righteousness** to be **sanctified**.
 - b. **Sanctification** required for salvation comes by God’s grace resulting in forgiveness received at baptism and my own **obedience to righteousness** that must follow—the changed life that I choose to live!
 - c. In other words, sanctification is not a one-time act, but a lifelong process of doing what is right along with God’s grace to forgive when we fall short.
 3. When God sees his people for who they truly are—someone new and different from who they once were.
 - a. When I become a Christians, God still sees me! He is not blind to who I am and what I do.
 - i. Christ’s blood was not shed so that it might block God’s view of who we truly are, that Christ might set up some sort of umbrella of grace that obscures God’s vision of what evil people we continue to be, as Calvinism so wrongfully teaches!
 - ii. Instead, Christ died so that I might no longer be evil, sinful, impure, and unholy! His death made it possible for sinners to become holy, pure, and to live a righteous life.
 - b. So, God sees Christians for who they are. But that should not be a bad thing!
 - i. For, in Christ we are **no longer sinners, no longer slaves to sin**, but **obedient children** who are **expected to, and can, live in holiness like our God** (1 Pet. 1:13-17 – “Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As **obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts** which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but **like the Holy One** who called you, **be holy yourselves** also in all your behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, “**You shall be holy, for I am holy.**” ¹⁷ If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, **conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth**”).
 - ii. How can we do so? Because we are those redeemed from sin by the blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19 – “**knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things** like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ **but**

with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”).

- iii. The blood of Christ changes everything about how God sees us...and how we should see ourselves! (2 Cor. 5:17 – “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. As we conclude, I want to encourage you to think about your life and:
 - A. If you are not saved, that you will consider what God offers to you in Christ! For, God will take you, a sinner condemned, and save you, making you holy, forgiving you of your sins and making you righteous, and will give you life from death in sin, a life lived in righteousness.
 - B. If you are a Christian that you will acknowledge and accept who you truly are in Christ and start living like the changed and righteous person God in Christ has made you to be! Quit excusing sin as coming from the old self. For, you are not who you once were. So, live like it!
2. Will you, if you are in Christ, change your life today and live as who you are?
3. Of if you are outside of Christ, will you come to Christ today accepting Him as you Lord, R-C-Bp into Christ that you might be raised up with Him to newness of life, to a new person, created in the likeness of Christ to live with the hope of heaven and eternal life?