

Have you been loved enough by God yet?

Read John 17: 20-26

Jesus (J) is praying/asking for three things

1. V21 for you and me to be one with Jesus, as He is with God the Father
 - “Jesus is great but not sure about God the Father”, danger with this is that God is still seen as angry judge so my value comes from performance
 - *le I do therefore I am*, rather than *I am therefore I do*
2. V22 for you and me to know the glory of sonship that J knows with his father
 - Baptism of Jesus, happened before any of the ministry/doing. Why? So God could affirm him as his son first!
3. V23 this glory of sonship and daughtership is irresistible, it shows!
 - Not telling a message but being a message/ a living epistle/“What happened to you?”

J is praying that the eyes of our hearts are opened and we realise that we are loved for who we are not what we do

Q. Does Jesus still need to pray this prayer for me and you?

e.g. Do I see the Father as this wonderful loving father worth opening my life to?

e.g. Have I received the spirit of sonship? “Dear Father!”

e.g. Does it show in my being to those that don’t know him?

Q. Do you need to receive more? Three indicators/languages that reveal whether we need to receive more love:

1. Judgement
2. Comparison
3. Shame

1. Judgement.

- What is it? Not observation alone e.g. Chris didn’t speak to me as he passed me. Judgement is assuming the “why?” We judge the motives. Matthew 7: (Luke 6) No don’t do it! Only God is in a position to do this with real justice. When we judge it only leads to conflict and pain for us and others.
- How to resolve? Luke 17:3 Rebuke=fix a value to something “This is what you did and how it left me feeling” This then creates an opportunity for the truth to come and forgiveness.
- What does judgement reveal? Not loved enough. I am still feeling the need to judge others so that I feel better about myself
- What does it bring? More rejection, critical, impatient, grumpy, pain, withdrawal
- Who loves it when we judge one another? Satan

2. Comparison.

- When God loves us, He chooses us. 3 things this communicates: 1) unique 2) valid contribution 3) wanted
- When we see others being chosen, we infer a 4th that God does not, which is “He chose you at my expense!”
- At the root of comparison is envy. “You are loved more than I am”
- What does comparison lead to? Victim, resentment, bitterness, robbed of joy.

3. Shame.

- When we haven’t received enough love, we are motivated to prove that we are worthy....doing, performance
- So when we get things wrong, we can’t bring it out into the open, but have to hide it, as our acceptance is in question
- That is shame. “What will people think if they knew”. It leaves us with *Appearance management* problems!
- We hide or we attack with judgement, envy and shame
- Shame becomes a prison, takes away our childlikeness, our freedom, prevents life change, we stop dancing,
- Judgement and shame is the language of religion that focuses on externals rather than on heart

Eph 2:4-8 “Grace is the gift of being accepted before I am acceptable by the one who matters the most”

Grace overcomes shame by accepting the whole of us, with no regard to our beauty or ugliness or vices or ability. We are accepted once and for all. We are given freely what we have longed for in every relationship, unconditional love.

Questions:

1. Of the three things that Jesus is praying for you and me, which of them have and haven not been answered for you?
2. Consider the three indicators or languages: which do you relate to (speak fluently) and what effect do they have in your life and those around you?
3. Spend some time confessing and repenting of these and receiving God’s love again. Pray truth over each other