

Rejection

From: Know and Believe:
A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You

Taken from Chapter 17: Rejection
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1 John 3:1-2

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

So great a love has been given to us. So great, that we are now His very own children. Since the world rejects God, they don't see how special we are to Him. In fact, increasingly, the world despises us for our faith to the point of thinking we are mentally unstable for believing in what we cannot see.

As His sons and daughters, we are destined to be like Him when He is revealed. No longer will we see Him as "through a glass dimly," but we will see Him face to face. The word "see" in verse 2 in the Greek is much more than the physical act of looking or observing. It means, "to gaze (that is, with wide open eyes, as at something remarkable)."¹

Even knowing they are accepted by God to this degree, many Christians still battle feelings of rejection by God because they were rejected in life in some way. People who were adopted, for example, often experience emptiness knowing their parents gave them away. If the home where they are adopted is a loving and kind home where they are accepted and nurtured, the pain of the rejection is lessened, but sadly, this is not always the case.

Others accumulate the fear of rejection through negative life experiences that tend to wear a person down—not being accepted by friends at school, being ill-treated by teachers, having a visible mental or physical imperfection—too tall, too short, too thin, too fat, too young, too old, bad dating experiences, difficulties finding employment, discrimination, unkindness by a trusted friend, divorce, and let us not forget the constant lies that seek to steal our confidence.

What we all need to know is that except for a very few individuals who were raised in the perfect home with the perfect parents and

¹ Strong's Concordance

adoring siblings, and great friends, who manage to be successful in every way, advance in their careers, meet the perfect mate who treats them lovingly every day—and on and on, there are very few people left with reasons to feel completely secure.

Everyone, including those we might consider perfect, at some time in their lives will face rejection. So, in a real way, we can all find ways to understand each other. Perhaps someone might not understand exactly how not having a father who loved as he should have would cause someone to feel insecurities about God's love, but maybe that same person experienced the pain of rejection by a spouse abandoning him. Or, having been betrayed by a dear and close friend, someone else might understand someone's pain from a divorce. These situations, though different, all involve rejection. Having experienced the comfort of God in these circumstances, we are able to encourage each other.

Note:

No matter where we are in terms of feeling rejection, we can rejoice knowing we are accepted by God. He is for us, not against us. He is seeking to love and comfort us every day. Take a minute and let yourself be assured by your God.