SPIRITUAL LIFE LESSON 4 I AM ACCEPTED



"...We have the free gift of being accepted by God, even though we are guilty of many sins." Romans 5:16 (NLT)

A WRONG VIEWS OF GOD OFTEN COME FROM NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES WE'VE HAD WITH EARTHLY AUTHORITIES

THE WORLD'S WAY OF EXERCISING AUTHORITY



AUTHORITIES HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS

Authority Accountability

AUTHORITIES AFFIRM OR WITHHOLD AFFIRMATION

Authority Accountability Affirmation

YOU MAY OR MAY NOT RECEIVE THE AUTHORITY'S ACCEPTANCE

Authority
Accountability
Affirmation
Acceptance

AUTHORITY BASED ON CONTROL

CONTROL

Authority
Accountability
Affirmation
Acceptance

CONTROL

REJECTION

Authority
Accountability
Affirmation
Acceptance

LEADS TO REBELLION OR PREFORMING FOR ACCEPTANCE

GOD'S WAY OF EXERCISING HIS AUTHORITY IS DIFFERENT



"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD." Isaiah 55:8 (NASB)

CONTROL

Authority
Accountability
Affirmation
Acceptance

LOVE

GOD'S AUTHORITY IS BASED ON LOVING YOU

CONTROL

Authority Accountability **Affirmation Acceptance**

LOVE



GOD'S WAY STARTS BY GIVING YOU ACCEPTANCE BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT OR WRONG



"...We have the free gift of being accepted by God, even though we are guilty of many sins. The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over us, but all who receive God's wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:16-17 (NLT)



"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)



GOD GIVES YOU AFFIRMATION THROUGH HIS WORD



"And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God." **Ephesians 3:18–19 (NLT)**



"For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children." Romans 8:16 (NLT)



ACCOUNTABILITY, YES! BUT IT IS BASED ON HIS LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE



"You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness – righteous, holy, and true." **Ephesians 4:24** (NLT)



"For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes those he accepts as his children.' As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Whoever heard of a child who was never disciplined?" **Hebrews 12:6–7 (NLT)**



"Happy are those whom you discipline, LORD, and those whom you teach from your law." Psalm 94:12 (NLT)



"We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (NKJ)



FOLLOWING GOD'S AUTHORITY BECOMES EASY



"So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into his family – calling him 'Father, dear Father." Romans 8:15 (NLT)

World's Way vs. God's Way CONTROL

Authority Accountability **Affirmation** Acceptance



"That is why we live by believing and not by seeing." 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)

Faith is a decision to believe what God says even though it may not "feel" true.

The truest things about you are what God says about you, not what the world says about you or even what you might think about yourself.



"What can we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since God did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? Will God? No!



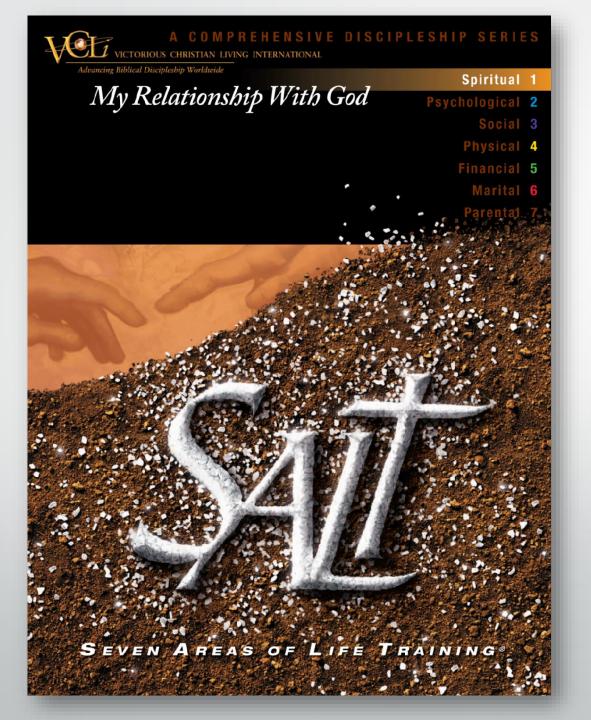
...He is the one who has given us right standing with Himself. Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for He is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?" Romans 8:31-35 (NLT)

If you have believed God only accepts you when you are "doing good things," confess that wrong thinking to God.

If your view of God's authority has been wrong, share that with God. Ask Him to give you a proper perspective.

Thank God for accepting you. Thank God that He is good and His plan is for your benefit.







VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING INTERNATIONAL

Advancing Biblical Discipleship Worldwide