Feeling Secure In God’s Love

Topical

Objective: Help people overcome feelings of personal inadequacy in Christ.

Reading: Genesis 50:15-17.

Memory: Hebrews 4:16, “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence …”

Introduction:
1. Genesis 50. Joseph wept. He is deeply grieved because the brother’s did not trust his love for them.
2. I wonder how often God is so grieved because we, even as devoted Christians question how acceptable we are to God.
3. As Joseph wanted his brothers to feel secure in his love, God wants us to feel secure in His love.
4. It is a grievous thing when our loved ones doubt our love.

We should feel secure in God’s love for us. (WHY?)

Let me share some reasons why, as devoted Christians we ought to feel confident that God loves us and will take care of us.

If you are feeling insecure, it may because you do not

I. Realize that God loves people with inadequacies.
A. He “called” you knowing that you have them!
   1. In fact, everybody has some of some kind. Look around. Some no hair, some too tall, too short, teeth missing, God made you that way, and He knows what He is doing.
   2. You don’t have to try to hide them from Him. Don’t pretend they are not there.
   3. He knows when you struggle with patience, anger control, doubts.
   4. He is very well aware that you get distracted. Have a short memory. Can’t read well. Have some emotional or psychological issues.
B. You are still a child of God!
   1. Christians have been adopted as God’s children. This is a matter of His choice. He chose to adopt you, even with all your frailties and inadequacies.
   2. Are you a “child of God”? A child of light? Are you on God’s team? Are you a force against evil? Whose side you are on is more the question than how perfectly you perform.
   3. Even though one sin places you in need of Christ and in need of forgiveness, one stumbling does not deny your son-ship! Even earthly parents still love their children who have disabilities. Remember that love covers a multitude of sins.
C. God will help you overcome shortcomings.
   1. Christianity is about the healing of spiritual and social ills. Our own and others.
   2. This is what spiritual growth and maturing is all about.
   3. Fruit of the Spirit is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” You don’t have any of them perfectly yet; you are supposed to be constantly growing in them.
   4. 2 Peter 1:5-7 lists desirable Christian qualities we are to work on. “…make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.” It goes on to say we are to have these in increasing measure. Growing. Not there yet. Each of us has room to grow!
D. God can use you with your frailties and inadequacies.
   1. OT David; adultery and murder. Extremely dysfunctional family. Absalom trying for throne etc.
   2. Abraham; so fearful that he lied about his wife being his sister.
   3. NT; Peter always making mistakes. Not understanding. Sometimes opposing. Even as Apostle, showed favoritism and had to be corrected.
   4. Every tool has limitations. My wife uses a butter knife for both a screw drive and as a hammer. Don’t throw it out because she can’t tune the TV with it!
   5. In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, God said to Paul, “…My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” So Paul concludes, “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's
sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

6. Human limitations let people see that it is God at work, not just you at work.

If you are feeling insecure in god’s love for you, it may because you do not fully

II. Realize the EXTENT of God’s love.

A. This is no trivial thing.
   1. Stronger than powers or problems. Romans 8:38-39. “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He intends, with all your problems, that nothing will come between you.
   2. If He loves enough to give His only Son for you, will He stop loving because you failed to fully understand something??
   3. John 3:16, “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.”
   4. It is “lavished” upon us; super-abundant! 1 John 3:1: “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” a. Cf. description of gravy “lavished” upon biscuits.

B. His love for us was imaginably powerful even while we were bad to Him.
   1. Romans 5:9-10, indicates He loved us so while we were enemies. “Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”
   2. What can you expect now that we are “friends”? Now that you are aware of Him and intentionally trying to please Him? He has already paid the price; He wants you with Him.
   3. He knows whose side you are on. Would you disown a soldier, relegate him as an enemy because he spills the water when you ask him to pour it? NO! He is still on your side. Still a friend. You might get him someone to help him, or a different job, but you appreciate his being on your side.
   4. If we only knew God’s love for us, how could we ever feel insecure about it?

If you are feeling insecure in your acceptability to God, it may because you do not fully

III. Realize the EXTENT and POWER of God’s Grace.

A. His grace is NOT short or inadequate.
   1. Ephesians 1:7-8. “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace hat he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”
      a. Once again, the word is “lavished”, as in “super-abundant. Always more than enough.
      b. When Jesus fed the 5,000, why did the pick up 12 baskets of leftovers?
      c. When everyone’s sins are covered, there is grace left over!
   2. Think of all the hindrances to acceptability illustrated in the Old Testament.
      a. Gentiles could never approach God closely, even in the temple they had their own court.
      b. If you had a small blemish, you were not allowed to worship until it was fixed or cleansed.
      c. Even the High Priest was not allowed to approach God, except once a year, then only briefly and only for a few minutes, with a blood sacrifice.
      d. In Christ, grace allows you more privilege than the High Priest. You are allowed to freely come into His Presence. Get to call Him “abba” (daddy). Talk in prayer any time day or night. He lives and abides IN you. In John 15, Jesus no longer calls them servants, but friends!

B. God’s abundant grace is extended to us in Christ and in the Holy Spirit.
   1. Titus 3:4-7. “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

2. If Christ justifies, you are justified indeed! No one argues. (It comes by the super-adequate sacrifice and power of Christ. So one must be “in-Christ” to have such grace).

3. It comes through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit whom we receive generously through Christ.

4. By the grace of God, we even have His Spirit to speak for us, to help in our weakness. Romans 8:26. “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” So god is like a parent who understands the very heart and intentions of the child.

As infinitely powerful as God’s grace is, understand that

C. One can, indeed, fall from grace.

1. If you are pretending, trying to deceive God, or deceiving yourself, and you are continuing to sin willfully, you are not really “Christian” Hebrews 10:26-27 then applies. “If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.” The sacrifice that brings such grace no longer applies.

2. If you are trying to do without grace; Galatians 5:4, “You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”
   a. If you are trying to do things by legal perfection. If you are trying to handle religion like Rubik’s Cube, where you need to have extreme intelligence and get all your little ducks in the right row. If you are insecure because there might be one tiny part of a puzzle you weren’t aware of or didn’t catch. Then, you are not relying on God’s grace, but on self. And you can’t do enough and can’t do it right enough. You need God’s grace.
   b. The passage goes on to explain in Galatians 5:6, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” If you are a child of God, and genuinely doing what God says do, out of love for you heavenly Father, you ought to feel secure in His love and grace.

3. If we are genuinely honest and open with Him, we can comfortably place ourselves in His care and trust His power and grace to take care us. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.” Genuinely entrust yourself to Him.

So What?

Let’s make sure we are living out a simple, open, child-like life which is prompted by faith and love for God. Then, as Hebrews 4:16, “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Closing Prayer:
Feeling Secure In God’s Love
Topical

Reading: Genesis 50:15-17.  
Memory: Hebrews 4:16

“L_ u_ t_ a_ t_ o_ g_ w_ c_ ...

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Reasons why Christians ought to feel confident that God loves us and will take care of us.

I. God loves people with inadequacies.
A. He “called” you knowing that you have them!

B. You are still a child of God!

C. God will help you overcome shortcomings.  
   2 Peter 1:5-7

D. God can use you with your frailties and inadequacies.  
   2 Corinthians 12:9-10

II. The EXTENT of God’s love.
A. This is no trivial thing.  
   Romans 8:38-39  John 3:16  1 John 3:1

B. Unimaginably powerful even while we were bad to Him.  
   Romans 5:9-10

III. The EXTENT and POWER of God’s Grace.
A. His grace is NOT short or inadequate.  
   Ephesians 1:7-8

B. Extended to us in Christ and in the Holy Spirit.  
   Titus 3:4-7  Romans 8:26

C. One can, indeed, fall from grace.  

So What?
Let’s make sure we are living a simple, open, child-like life prompted by faith and love for God. Then “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence!”