

GOD'S BUMPER STICKERS

WHAT MIGHT THEY SAY?



MY KIDS ARE CHOSEN (EPHESIANS 1:3-8)
God's Bumper Stickers sermon series
 By Pastor David Hillis, 08.18.19

BIG IDEA: Your identity and value in life does not rest in what you accomplish; you are already chosen by God and have nothing to prove.

Question #1: When did God choose you? (Ephesians 2:10, Jeremiah 1:4-5, Romans 8:29-30)

- **Before you were even born.**
- God *already* saw us as *complete, holy, without fault* and as His finished *masterpiece*.
- God made us with gifts and talents, He gave us our personalities — but listen: *He never intended us to find our value or identity in those things.*
- When we truly know and accept how we are already *chosen* by God, these temporary rejections might disappoint or frustrate us but they won't cause us to question our worth or value.
- Most of us never really notice the amount of negative self-chatter going on inside our heads.

Question #2: Did God choose us or do we choose God? (1 Corinthians 1:27-29)

- **Yes!**
- God chose us and adopted us into His family *with great pleasure*.
- He doesn't see you and think, "*all right, <NAME>, I guess I'll pick you!*"
- He *doesn't choose* us because of our performance, but actually He chooses us in *spite* of it!
- To be *chosen* as the *Beloved* of God is something radically different than anything we see in the world.
- We would have no *ability* to choose Him if He had not already chosen us, adopted us!

Question #3: How does God want us to respond to being His chosen?

- **By accepting it & being grateful for it.**
- We live in a performance based world that pushes us to achieve and stand out from the crowd.
- When we lose touch with our chosenness by God, that rejection can turn into self rejection, not seeing ourselves as “good enough” and living to please the *people* around us.
- Henri Nouwen called self-rejection the *greatest enemy* of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the “Beloved,” which is *who we are* at the *core*.
- We can *accept* what others in the world say about us or we can say “I am a chosen child of God, precious in His eyes, and loved for all eternity.”

NEXT STEP: What messages do you tell yourself or hear from others that contradict how God sees you? How does knowing God has chosen you change how you see and value yourself?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. This week in part 1 of *God's Bumper Stickers*, we talked about how we are chosen by God. Spend some time reading and considering [Ephesians 1:3-14](#) this week. What all do you see that being chosen by God involves? What excites you most about God's relationship to you? Knowing you are chosen, how might you view yourself differently than you have in the past?
2. God knew us even before He actually created us, and He created us to be His special, treasured possessions. Read [Psalm 139:16-18](#), [Isaiah 43:1-4](#), [Jeremiah 1:4-5](#) and [Romans 8:29-30](#). What all do you see in these Scriptures? In what ways is God asking you to see yourself, your life, differently?
3. There are many Scriptures which speak to our being chosen. Start with [Ezekiel 33:11](#); [Matthew 22:14](#); [John 3:16-18](#), [15:16](#); [Romans 5:12-21](#), [8:29-30](#), [9:16-18](#), [10:13](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:13](#); [1 Timothy 2:3-4](#); [1 Peter 2:9-10](#); [2 Peter 3:9](#). How do you reconcile these passages with each other?
4. Next week, we will look at how God blesses His kids, and how He wants to see ourselves as blessed. What Scriptures can you find that speak to this? What do they reveal to you?

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- How to unlearn your constant need to be liked and chosen: one man shares his struggles with this and how he did it in an article at [medium.com](#).
- Does God choose us or do we choose God? Calvinism & Arminianism compared, see these helpful articles at [Learn Religions](#), [Wikipedia](#), & [Got Questions](#).
- Pastor Dave mentioned a book which was part of the inspiration behind this new series. It is Henri Nouwen's book [Life of the Beloved](#), available on Amazon in paper, digital and audio formats.
- Listen & be encouraged by these words of Scripture: ["I Chose You"](#), an audio compilation of Scripture produced by David Teems.