Every day you find yourself getting sucked back into the courtroom. All I can tell you is that we have to re-live the gospel every time we pray. We have to re-live it every time we go to church. We have to re-live the gospel on the spot and ask ourselves what we are we doing in the courtroom. We should not be there. The court is adjourned. Keller (Freedom of Self-forgetfulness)

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (Come unto me all who are weary...)

Difference is self-forgetfulness takes you out of the courtroom. The trial is over. The verdict is in. Perhaps that is new. Keep looking. Keep digging. Keep asking questions. There’s a lot to discover.

**The Gospel way of Jesus is better than all other ways! There is great joy in living as child of God!**

**Spiritual Growth Questions for June 18, 2023**

1. **Read I Corinthians 3:21-4:7.** What stands out to you about the opinions of others? Yourself? God? What’s the problem with addressing every issue as “low self-esteem” as the root of it? Or high self-esteem?
2. One of the major points of the message was dealing with our ego (empty, painful, busy and fragile). How have you seen this lived out in your life? What is the weakness in emphasizing our performance over verdict?
3. **Read Romans 8:1, I Corinthians 4:4 & 7**. What is the benefit of receiving God’s verdict and Jesus perfect performance as my own? What should we do when we are pulled back into the courtroom of performance? How can God’s verdict free me to live a fruitful life? How could it help me in my relationships and parenting? Why is the gospel way of addressing ego so much better?
4. Could you explain to someone else how the gospel can (and should) transform our sense of identity? How much do you experience that transformed sense of identity?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus, develop true gospel humility and the freedom of self-forgetfulness in me. Help me to reject daily the pride of my ego and receive your verdict and Christ’s righteousness as my own. May my soul be filled with Holy Spirit and may I be seeing God’s value in me and others. May I grow in my experience of joy in my soul and share it with others.

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**The Path to Christian Joy/ Father’s Day**

 **The Freedom of Self Forgetfulness**

 **June 18, 2023, Pastor John Lloyd**

“What marks the heart that has been radically changed by God? If we trust in Christ, what should our hearts be like? It is not simply a matter of morally virtuous behavior. It is quite possible to do all sorts of morally virtuous things when our hearts are filled with fear, with pride or with a desire for power. We are talking about hearts that have been changed, at the root by the grace of God and what it looks like in real life.” Tim Keller It’s my prayer that every father and man in our church would be filled with Christian joy. I don’t want us to just exist but to live our lives filled to the brim with the joy of the Lord.

I Corinthians 3:21So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. 4:1This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. 6I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. 7For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

**Big Idea**: **The pathway to Christian joy is receiving and accepting God’s verdict as my identity! There is great joy in living as child of God!**

1. Pride/boasting offers no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I Corinthians 3:21So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

**Beware of too high a view vs. too low of view ourselves.**

II. Receive the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God on those who trust in Jesus for salvation. Verdict before performance vs. performance and then the verdict.

In Christianity, the moment we believe, God imputes Christ’s perfect performance to us as if it were our own and adopts us into his family. In other words, God can say to us just as He once said to Christ, “You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased.” Keller (Romans 4:25)

I Corinthians 4:3But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1. **Resist the urge to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to my/their identity.**

I Timothy 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

2 Cor.5:19b not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

1. **Resist the urge to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to my/their identity.**

Philippians 3:8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ. Gal.2:20

“The thing we would remember from meeting a gospel-humble person is how much they seemed to be totally interested in us. The essence of Gospel humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself, it is thinking of myself less. Gospel humility is not needing to think about myself. True gospel humility means that I stop connecting every experience, every conversation with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. The freedom of self-forgetfulness. The blessed rest that only self-forgetfulness brings.” Tim Keller

**The Gospel way of Jesus is better than all other ways! There is great joy in living as child of God!**

III. Let my soul \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ these joyous \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ every day.

I Corinthians 4:6I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. 7For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

 I Corinthians 4:6I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be **puffed up** in favor of one against another.

Pride- an overinflated, swollen, distended beyond its proper size. The *Human ego is empty, painful, busy and fragile.*

The human heart is empty when it tries to build its identity around something other than God. Soren Kierkegaard (Problem- anything but God is too small)

**(PT): Stress their main identity is as a child of God not what they do. They are valuable to God! Encourage them to see this in others.**

The ego often hurts. That’s because there is something painfully wrong with it. It is always making us think about how we look and how we are treated.

The ego is *busy* doing two things in particular: comparing and boasting. The way the normal ego tries to fill its emptiness and deal with its discomfort is by comparing itself to other people. All the time. Keller 2 Cor. 10:12

“Pride gets no pleasure out of having something only out of having more of it than the next person. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer or better looking than others. If everyone else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. C.S. Lewis Pride is the pleasure of being more than the next person.

The ego is fragile because it is overinflated and is in imminent danger of being deflated - like an overinflated balloon. A superiority complex and inferiority complex are basically the same. The person with the superiority complex is overinflated and in danger of being deflated; the person with the inferiority complex is deflated already. Either way the ego is fragile. Keller

I Corinthians 4:7For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? (**PT;** Psalm 139-23-24, Phil.2:3 with your child)

**I reject pride in my life. Everything I have is a gift from God. Let me live each day and in all my relationships in biblical humility. There is great joy in living as child of God!**

How do we reach the point where we are not controlled by what people think about us? How do you think we get there? The world’s way vs. God’s way.