

REJECTION

- I. Representative Biblical references
 - A. God
 - 1. God is love - accepting, merciful, forgiving, gracious
I Jn. 4:8,16 - "God is love..."
Rom. 15:7 - "Christ accepted us to the glory of God"
 - 2. God is not rejective
Lev. 26:11 - "My soul will not reject you"
Isa. 41:9 - "I have chosen you and not rejected you"
Ps. 94:14 - "the Lord will not abandon His people"
II Cor. 4:9 - "not forsaken"
Heb. 13:5 - "I will never desert you, nor forsake you"
• Is there a point of no return, at which God gives up on a person and rejects? (cf. Ps. 77:7; 81:12; 88:14; Acts 7:42,43; Rom. 1:24,26,28)
 - 3. We are to love and accept
Jn. 13:34 - "love one another as I have loved you"
Rom. 15:7 - "accept one another"
 - B. Satan - "god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4) - rejective, reviling
 - 1. Jesus rejected and reviled
Isa. 53:3 - "He was despised and forsaken of men"
Lk. 17:25 - "rejected by this generation"
I Peter 2:4 - "rejected by men"
I Peter 2:23 - "reviled, He did not revile in return"
 - 2. People rejected and reviled
Ps. 27:10 - "my father and my mother have forsaken me"
I Cor. 4:12 - "when we are reviled, we bless"
I Pet. 3:16 - "those who revile your good behavior"
I Pet. 4:14 - "reviled for the name of Christ"
- II. Explanation of "rejection"
 - A. God's intent
 - 1. Created man to express His character - "image" of God
 - 2. Fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22,23
 - 3. Social interpersonal relationships - love, acceptance, harmony, unity, community
 - B. Satan's perversion
 - 1. Satan serves as the antithesis and negative of God
 - 2. Satan's world system produces a rejective society
 - 3. Self-concern fosters rejection
 - a. Ex. Cain and Abel - Gen. 4:1-15; I Jn. 3:12
 - b. Deeds of flesh - Gal. 5:19-21
 - 4. Everyone has experienced rejection
- III. Rejection in Personal Development (consult diagram)
 - A. Parental care-giver is primary agent of personal development
 - B. Rejection by inadequate fulfillment of God-given needs
 - C. No perfect parents
 - 1. Act with personal aspiration, gratification and reputation
 - 2. React with fight, fright, flight
 - 3. Patterns of fleshliness - S.E.L.F. patterning
 - 4. Personal addictions - alcohol, drugs, sex, religion
 - 5. Perpetuation of systemic family dynamics - dysfunctional families

IV. Some particular forms of social rejection

- A. Physical violence
- B. Abusive authority
- C. Physical expulsion
- D. Sexual advantages
- E. Personal absence
- F. Verbal repudiation
- G. Verbal threats
- H. Personal differences
- I. Public humiliation
- J. Conditional acceptance
- K. Name-calling
- L. Attack on character
- M. Criticism, ridicule, negativism
- N. Comparison, favoritism
- O. Distrust
- P. Withdrawal of right and privileges
- Q. Undemonstrative, uncommunicative
- R. Inadequate provision
- S. Outside involvement
- T. Refusal to accept responsibility
- U. Unkept promises
- V. Impersonal means to an end
- W. Inequitable standards
- X. Absence of recognition and praise
- Y. Overprotection, indulgence
- Z. Projected expectations
- AA. Inadmission of failure
- BB. Forced responsibility
- CC. Encourage sinful behavior
- DD. Permissiveness
- EE. Inadequate example
- FF. No personal relationship
- GG. Premature death

V. Responses to "rejection"

- A. Natural responses
 - 1. Our own selfishness causes us to reject others
 - 2. Allege rejection - repressed memories
 - 3. React with fight, fright, flight
 - 4. Against rejecters, others, God, ourselves, situations
 - 5. Develop personality and identity in S.E.L.F.
 - 6. Perpetuate rejective patterns
- B. Christian response
 - 1. Find our acceptance and identity in Christ
 - a. Christ accepted us - Rom. 15:7
 - b. Lord takes us up - Ps. 27:10
 - c. Entrust ourselves to Him - I Pet. 3:23
 - 2. Accept others - Rom. 15:7
Poem by Edwin Markham - He drew a circle that shut me out;
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win;
We drew a circle that took him in.