

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Thus Saith the Lord*

## BACK PATTING

By Jeff Sweeten

There's always the danger of wrenching one's shoulder when patting oneself on the back. It is ironically humorous that this risk rarely deters the proud from exercising that option but the Bible warns against such hubris. Paul wrote the Corinthians Christians, warning them of the pitfalls of "comparative theology." You have probably heard other monikers describe this pestilence but suffice it to say, according to Paul, Corinth had a problem with their standards of personal value, and this issue possessed its flaw in the foundation of a warped importance.

So, what standard should one use to determine human worth?

"For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves among themselves, are not wise.... For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends" (2 Corinthians 10:12, 18).

It is easy to find someone of lesser significance than ourselves if we use ourselves as the metric. The origin of someone's perceived diminished importance is irrelevant when the goal is to feel better about oneself, but it is a sad state of affairs when the only validation a person can find is in denigrating others. Yet, this seems like a staple in our country these days. Politicians sling mud, popular entertainment promotes humor through terms of belittlement, and personal relationships begin their end with snarky put-downs. You don't stand taller by standing on someone else, that only makes you hard to stand.

The true sense of value that God intends for us to enjoy is void of pride and filled with appreciation. You have value because you are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26), He cares about you (1 Peter 5:7) and sent His Son to die for you (John 3:16). Self-acclimation does not amount to a hill of beans. Humanity has value because God said so. Instead of being "proud," be grateful.

The beginning of diminished pride is to "let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips" (Proverbs 27:2). "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith" (Romans 12:3). "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12).

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**