

The Dangers of Comparison!

Hannah Donahue

Galatians 6:4-But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load.

2 Corinthians 10:12-For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

Compare: estimate, measure, or note the *similarity* or *dissimilarity* between. (*ital-mine*)

In a negative or dangerous sense, what might *comparing* mean when we are speaking of *comparing* oneself to another human being?

- a. Compare can mean *to discriminate*
- b. Related words are *discrimination* and *segregation*
- c. Comparison can start very subtly. But if not caught and taken care of immediately, it can avalanche negatively, tormenting your thoughts and your heart.

6 Dangers of Comparison!

1. **Once started, *comparing oneself* or *finding opposition* with another, can begin to *take root*.** Once those roots are firmly in the ground (soil of your heart), they begin to grow and eventually produce *fruit*.
2. The *fruit* from a root system of *comparison* is ugly! It can produce the fruits of *envy* and *pride*!
***envy**-"I wish I had that!"
***pride**-"I'm so glad that I don't look like that! I'm so glad that I don't have that!"
3. **Never being able to discover who God has created *you* to be!** If you are only focusing on what someone else is doing, or what that person does or does not have, you will never discover all of the amazing things God has placed within *you*! You will not fulfill your Divine Destiny because you are too busy trying to be someone or something else!
Danger!
 - a. What are the gifts and abilities God has given to *you*? How are you stewarding those? Don't compare your gifts with someone else's! You are unique! Be uniquely **YOU**!

- b. Think of the body-We need every body part to function properly and correctly in order for the body to work as a whole. We need **YOU!**
- 4. **You aren't walking in faith when you compare.** You are walking in control, manipulating your own situation. Danger!
- 5. **Comparing can cause you to feel inferior and that you are falling short. 2 Corinthians 10:12-**For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and *comparing* themselves among themselves, are not *wise*.

Wise-*sophos* in the Greek-wise, sharp, bright, specially enlightened.

Comparing- *sunkrino* in the Greek-This paints the picture of two people next to one another *comparing* who is superior to the other.

Could be translated: "Comparing yourselves among yourselves is not the wisest, sharpest, or brightest thing to do." Rick Renner p. 64 [Sparkling Gems from the Greek 2](#)

- 6. **Self-pity-**Do you go through a check-list of your own gifts/life measuring what you think those things are supposed to be, with someone else's giftings and/or life, (rather than finding out what *God* says they are supposed to be)? Watch out! You are in danger of falling into **self-pity**. Self-pity is a dangerous place to be! Once indulging in self-pity, you become vulnerable to hearing lies from the enemy such as, "God is withholding from you" (remember how the enemy lied to Adam and Eve in the garden? "Why would God not want you (Adam and Eve) to not partake of that one tree?" He was deceiving them into making them think that God was withholding from them! In actuality, God was protecting them! Another lie when dealing with self-pity might be, "See? They have all the breaks and you? You have nothing!" (Ugh! What a lie!)

How did Jesus avoid such comparisons and the rat race? He was free from all of this because He cared more about the Father's acclaim for Him than His own! He knew His position before the Father was never in any danger! His relationship with God remained unchangeable, even as He fell lower in the eyes of men! Jesus was secure in *Who* He was (in the Father), *Whose* He was, *Who He was to the Father*, and *What His purpose* on this earth was to be!

We can walk in those same securities! In fact, we MUST! We can have confidence knowing God's character is to give freely, and our greatest treasure; our relationship with Him is secure!

Remind yourself of all you *do* have! Salvation, unconditional love from the Father, redemption, freedom, forgiveness, gifts, talents, abilities, a Divine Destiny, Psalm 103, and the list goes on and on and on!

How to combat comparison?

- a. Go over all of the amazing **LOVE** Scriptures in the Bible with regards to God's unconditional love for **YOU!**
- b. Remember the gifts, talents and things God has lavished upon us. **Ephesians 2:10-** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, *which God prepared beforehand* that we should walk in them. (*Ital-mine*)
- c. Repent about believing the lies of comparison.
- d. Build yourself up with Scripture to defeat the comparison lie. **1 John 4:4-** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- e. Rejoice in God's love, faithfulness, and restoration. Bask in His goodness, and the gifts of His Son.
- f. *STAY IN YOUR LANE!***

How does one get there?

Spend time with God! **INTIMATELY.** Read Scripture. Meditate on it. Worship!

Are you getting transformed and saturated in God? Are you *mastering the text* (simply reading and not allowing the Word to change you) or are you *allowing the text to master you?* (Taking the needed time to soak up the Truths from the Bible.)

This is what brings lasting and eternal transformation, freedom and change.