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The Naz Prayer Ministry



“Tell me what you think of me.”

I probably have heard the little ABC ditty at least 500 time in the last couple years. If my grandson was not singing it, one musical toy or another was making sure I would not forget the words.

I’ve noticed, though, that the words of the last line have changed since I was a boy. Today the song ends with “Now I’ve said my ABCs. Next time won’t you sing with me?” But in my day, we ended with an unabashed solicitation of ego-boosting adulation: “Tell me what you think of me.”

Now, I have to be honest. I rarely ask loaded questions any more, and “what do you think of me” clearly comes tightly wound with its own blasting cap. Too many people voluntarily share that information anyway.

That little question tucked at the end of that little ditty, however, came to mind when I was reading Exodus 20. Those verses reveal something quite profound. They provide a window through which can clearly see what God thinks of us. The thread that links all of God’s directives together is relationship, more specifically the value He places on relationships. In fact, relationship is at the core of God’s value system.

It was relationship that God sought from the start in the Garden of Eden. And it is relationship that He seeks to restore through the sacrifice of His Son. And in spite of the stain of waywardness and rebellion imprinted in human history, God affirms in Genesis 20 what He declared in Genesis 1 when He pronounced that what He created, including Eden’s caretakers, was “good.” He values, indeed, treasures us and our relationship with Him.

We are the only part of His creation that bears His likeness. As flawed as sin has rendered us, we are still the center of His affection. Even from the beginning, He was prepared to enter into the human experience and provide a way for us to reconnect with Him.

The Law, beginning with these ten directives in Exodus 20, is designed to let God’s people learn to value relationships just as He does. His instructions about life and community were given to guard and strengthen relationships, first their relationship with Him and then with each other. If you take time to examine the Old Testament Books of the Law that follow, you will note that everything God’s people are to do is determined by, as well as designed to care for, the nature of their relationship with God and with each other.

Take Your Next Step

Ask yourself often and regularly, “Why do I do what I do?”

How often are you motivated by the desire for convenience or recognition or profit or perhaps avoidance? Seek the voice of the Lord to awaken you to the priority of relationships and how they should impact your decisions.

God valued those He created in His own likeness so much that every choice evidenced in scripture was rooted in His commitment to live in a relationship with His people. Choose to value the relationships God has provided for you as a sacred trust, opportunities for others to discover through you how much God values them.

