

How To Overcome Guilt, Shame & Rejection
How To Overcome Rejection And Betrayal
4037

I. Introduction

- A. The supernatural love of God—Greek *agape*—is made available to us in two main ways:
 - 1. Romans 5:5—Poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Personal testimony of love imparted in this way for the people of the Sudan.
 - 2. 1 John 2:4–5—Worked out in our character by diligently obeying God’s Word.
- B. 2 Peter 1:5–7—The starting point is *faith*. The seven ascending steps of character building:
 - 1. Excellence
 - 2. Knowledge (primarily of God’s will)
 - 3. Temperance (self-control)
 - 4. Patience (perseverance or endurance)
 - 5. Godliness
 - 6. Brotherly kindness (toward fellow Christians)
 - 7. Charity (divine love—*agape*)
- C. Two common obstacles that love encounters:
 - 1. Rejection
 - 2. Betrayal
- D. 1 Peter 2:21—In each case, Jesus is our pattern
 - 1. Luke 23:34—Jesus prayed for those who *rejected* Him
 - 2. John 6:70–71—Jesus chose Judas, knowing he would *betray* Him
 - 3. Matt. 26:47–50—When Judas came to *betray* Him, Jesus greeted him as a friend
- E. Two lessons we need to learn from Jesus:
 - 1. When He was *rejected*, He did not withdraw love.
 - 2. When He was *betrayed*, He did not lose faith.
- F. Divine love does not draw back or turn away. Divine love totally exposes itself at the cost of embarrassment, shame or betrayal.

II. Rejection

- A. In dealing with human problems, we move downward from twigs, branches and limbs to the trunk and finally the roots.
 - 1. The root of all roots is *rejection*.
 - 2. The remedy for every human problem is provided by the cross.
 - 3. Matt. 27:46—On the cross Jesus was *rejected* by the Father that we, in turn, might be *accepted*.
- B. Rejection is most commonly felt by a child toward his parents. The remedy:
 - 1. Recognize your problem
 - 2. Forgive your parents
 - 3. Set your will to honor them

III. Betrayal

- A. This common problem arises between husband and wife. The remedy:
 - 1. First forgive
 - 2. Then trust your husband (or wife)
- B. Few American wives really *trust* their husbands. But without his wife's trust the average man will never be what he could be and should be.
2 Cor. 2:3; 7:16—God gave Paul grace to trust those who had proved unworthy of his confidence

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