



September 13, 2023

Dear Family & Friends, The summer was busy: We hit Utah, Georgia, Florida, Wyoming, and many parts in between. Our car quit in Ogden, Utah. We met a friendly policeman, a helpful former prisoner, and a very honest & vulnerable tow-truck driver. Fortunately, our daughter & family live in that general area. The KIA Service Department appointment was scheduled for over three weeks away. We left the car behind and drove a rental car home to California. (End of story - car computer needed updating, no cost - car rental was another story)



On August 30 we headed for Valley State Prison in Chowchilla, CA in the rental car to participate in a Kairos Weekend (3½ day conference on the Christian faith) where we emphasized God's love & acceptance, forgiveness, and being valuable to God.



**The men shared:** "I was abandoned by both parents; I was beaten in foster care."

"I just wanted someone to love me."

"What did I do to be overpowered and abused and violated?"

"I was repeatedly told that I was "no good" & never would be."

"Don't call me Mommy anymore; that is sissy". I was 7.

"I cannot remember my parents; I was raised by my grandma."

"I never felt like I was in a safe place; I was afraid all the time."

"I cannot forgive my dad for what he did to me - never."

**It takes your breath away, doesn't it?**

When you tell them you love them, they are valuable to God & forgiven, and then you share a verse liked Jeremiah 29:11, "**For I know the plans I have for you,**" declares the LORD, "**plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future**" .... with tears in their eyes, they give you a hug you will never forget.

We have the privilege of working with a team of volunteers that are "talking their walk".

We just finished a five-lesson set called "**Weekend Review**". These lessons are to be distributed by the chaplain to the "Kairos Weekend Graduates" in the weeks to come.

**One of these lessons is included for your review. Print it out and do it.**

Thanks for supporting our ministry. [Partner With Us - Remember Those In Prison \(rememberthose-inprison.org\)](http://rememberthose-inprison.org). Check out our website. [Home - Remember Those In Prison \(rememberthose-inprison.org\)](http://rememberthose-inprison.org)

Our deepest love & gratitude to God & to you. Remember, you are valuable to God too.

Bruce & Liz Leary

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# WEEKEND REVIEW 1

## "CAN I ACCEPT MYSELF?"

AFTER A WEEK FULL OF VICTORIES & FAILURES, LET'S EVALUATE.

1.     \_Y \_N     Do you hate yourself?
2.     \_Y \_N     Have you ever hated yourself?

KEEP IN MIND THAT:     "LOVE":     MEANS TO "PUSH TOWARD SOMETHING YOU WANT & NEED"  
                                  "HATE":     MEANS TO PUSH AWAY FROM WHAT YOU WANT & NEED"

BOTH OF THESE EMOTIONS ARE CHOICES - YOUR CHOICES

*Psalm 139:13-16 - You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

1.     What did God make? \_\_\_\_\_
2.     What did God watch? \_\_\_\_\_
3.     When did God see me? \_\_\_\_\_
4.     How much of my life has God kept track of? \_\_\_\_\_
5.     Can bad parents, evil friends, or a sick society prevent God from:  
      \_Y \_N     Making a good creation out of you?  
      \_Y \_N     Watching you grow while in hard times or good times?  
      \_Y \_N     Seeing every part of your life, past, present, and future?  
      \_Y \_N     Knowing how every detail of your life can fit back together?  
      \_Y \_N     Are you judging God based upon what everyone is doing to you?

*IF YOU BLAME GOD FOR WHAT BROKEN PEOPLE HAVE DONE TO YOU, THEN YOU ARE HATING GOD BECAUSE HE PUT YOU IN THIS WORLD. IF YOU HATE HIM (YOUR CREATOR), THEN YOU HATE YOU.*

*Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his love for us: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Romans 3:23 - ALL have sinned (missed or fallen short of the requirements of God).*

1.     Who is a sinner? \_\_\_\_\_
2.     \_Y \_N     Look at Romans 5:8. Can a believer still be a sinner?
3.     \_Y \_N     Are you "accepting yourself" if you admit you are a sinner?
4.     \_Y \_N     Are you "accepting yourself" if you seek to solve your sin?
5.     \_Y \_N     Was Jesus "accepting you" when He died for your sins?
6.     \_Y \_N     Are you "accepting yourself" when you allow God to change you?

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**"ACCEPTING YOURSELF" IS SAYING "I SEE WHERE I AM, I KNOW I HAVE VALUE, BUT I DESPERATELY NEED TO MAKE CHANGES."**

*Genesis 1:26-27 God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness ...." So God did create mankind in His image (the image of God), male and female.*

1. If a dictator erects images of himself all over the empire, what is he saying & trying to do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If God has personality (emotions, intellect, moral boundaries, and will), and if we are created in His likeness, what do we have? \_\_\_\_\_
3. God chose to erect His image all over this world, who did He choose to be His image? \_\_\_\_\_

*Isaiah 45:5 - I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God.*

1.   Y   N Does it appear that God approves of Himself, and that He accepts Himself as God Almighty?
2. If you are created in the "image" of God, God expects you to "accept yourself" as a person, as a creation of God, as a masterpiece of God, even though you have failures, disobedient times, and depression. How are you doing in this battle?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3.   Y   N Don't you think that accepting (acknowledging) yourself for WHO you are and WHERE you are is a mandatory step toward fulfilling God's desire for you to demonstrate & display the image of God to those around you?

**IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE WORLD AROUND US IS NOT EXPECTING PERFECTION IN OUR LIVES, BUT RATHER, IS WATCHING TO SEE HOW WE HANDLE OUR IMPERFECTIONS?**

*Deuteronomy 31:8 - Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.*

1. When we are afraid or discouraged, what is good to know?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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