

Do You Reject Your Design? Study Guide

Key Concepts

1. **Rejecting God's Design:**

- When we reject or loathe aspects of our God-given design (such as gender, physical appearance, or other unchangeable traits), we disrespect our Creator. This can create a barrier between us and God, leading us to believe He has abandoned us, when in fact, we have distanced ourselves from Him.

2. **Understanding Your Value:**

- True self-worth is about aligning our perception of ourselves with God's view, rather than overestimating (pride) or underestimating (self-hatred) our value. Our worth is defined by God's love for us, which is expressed through Christ's sacrifice.

3. **The Unchangeables in Life:**

- Certain details of our lives, such as gender, ethnicity, and family, are designed by God and cannot be changed. These aspects are part of His divine plan and purpose for each of us.

4. **Sin and Separation from God:**

- Sin, which entered the world through Adam and Eve, separated humanity from God. However, God devised a plan for redemption through Jesus Christ to restore that relationship.

5. **Self-Hatred and Its Dangers:**

- Self-loathing is not humility but a form of pride that denies the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. Diminishing the value of Jesus' death by believing we are beyond His redemption is a sin.

6. **Becoming a Selfless Servant:**

- True greatness in God's kingdom is found in understanding our identity in Christ and serving others selflessly. This can only be achieved when we embrace our God-given design and accept His value of us.

Biblical References with Key Insights

1. Made in God's Image:

- **Genesis 1:26-28 (KJV):** *“God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*
 - **Insight:** Every human being is created in the image of God. Gender and physical traits are part of this divine design, and rejecting them is a rejection of God's intentional creation.

2. Fearfully and Wonderfully Made:

- **Psalms 139:13-16 (NET):** *“You wove me together in my mother’s womb... your eyes saw me when I was inside the womb.”*
 - **Insight:** God intricately designs each person from the moment of conception, affirming that every detail of our being is purposeful and intentional.

3. Sin and Separation from God:

- **Genesis 3:22-24 (NET):** *“The Lord God expelled him from the garden to cultivate the ground... and placed angelic sentries to guard the way to the tree of life.”*
 - **Insight:** Sin separated humanity from God's presence, but this separation was part of His greater plan to ultimately restore us through Jesus Christ.

4. Redemption Through Christ:

- **Ephesians 2:5 (NLT):** *“He gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead... it is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!”*
 - **Insight:** Our value is established by the price Christ paid to redeem us. Rejecting this value undermines the significance of Christ’s sacrifice.

5. God's Plan for Restoration:

- **2 Samuel 14:14 (NLT):** *“God devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from him.”*
 - **Insight:** Even when we distance ourselves from God, He seeks ways to bring us back into fellowship with Him.

Practical Applications

1. **Embrace Your Design:**

- Recognize that God purposefully made you, including your gender, physical features, and unchangeable traits. Embrace them as part of His plan and purpose for your life.

2. **Align Your Value with God's View:**

- Daily renew your mind with Scripture to understand your value according to God, not the world's standards or your own distorted perceptions.

3. **Rejecting Self-Hatred:**

- If you struggle with self-loathing, acknowledge that this mindset diminishes Christ's work on the cross. Repent and accept God's love for you, as He created you with intentionality and purpose.

4. **Overcome Low Self-Esteem:**

- Replace negative self-perceptions with biblical truths. Understand that both pride (thinking too highly) and hidden pride (thinking too lowly) are rooted in focusing on oneself rather than on God's perspective.

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to reject your God-given design? How does this affect your relationship with God?
2. How can understanding your value in Christ help you overcome feelings of inadequacy or pride?
3. Why is rejecting any aspect of our unchangeable design considered disrespect toward God, the Creator?
4. How does self-hatred diminish the significance of Christ's sacrifice on the cross?
5. In what ways can you renew your mind to align your self-worth with God's view, as revealed in Scripture?

Personal Reflection

1. **Self-Perception:**

- Are there any aspects of your physical appearance, gender, or other unchangeable traits that you struggle to accept? How might rejecting these aspects be affecting your relationship with God?

2. **Renewing Your Mind:**

- Reflect on the thoughts you have about yourself daily. Are they aligned with what Scripture reveals about your value in Christ, or are they shaped by worldly standards? How can you replace negative thoughts with biblical truths?

3. **Self-Esteem:**

- Do you tend to think too highly or too lowly of yourself? How can you strike a balance by aligning your self-esteem with God's view of your worth?

4. **Relationship with God:**

- Consider how rejecting parts of your God-given design might have distanced you from God. What steps can you take to repent and restore that relationship?

This study guide emphasizes the importance of accepting one's God-given design and aligning self-worth with biblical truths. By doing so, you can grow closer to God, understand your value in Christ, and live confidently in the way He created you.