

Journey Towards Significance: What am I?

Phyllis Lanyon

Prague, Czech Republic, March 2004

I. I want to be significant.

Self-worth=Performance + Others' Opinions

II. The journey toward Significance

A. The Performer: I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.

B. The Approval Addict: I must feel approved by certain others to feel good about myself.

C. The Blamer: Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.

D. Shame: I am what I am. I cannot change. I am hopeless.

III. God's Remedy—I am significant

A. I am completely forgiven and fully pleasing to God, so I no longer need to fear failure. (Justification) 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 10:17.

B. I am totally accepted by God, so I no longer have to fear rejection. (Reconciliation) Colossians 1:21-22; Romans 8:38-39

C. I am deeply loved by God, so I no longer have to fear punishment or punish others. (Propitiation) Ephesians 2:4-9

D. I have been made brand-new, complete in Christ, so I no longer need to experience the pain of shame. (Regeneration) Titus 3:3-7

IV. What I value determines what I am.