

# John 21:18-22

## “What Is That to You?”: Freedom from Comparison

### The Summit Church

**MPT:** Jesus gives a clear picture of what it means to live as a disciple: “Follow me.”

**MPS:** Each person has been uniquely assigned a role in bringing glory to God.

Comparing roles only leads to discord; our call is to hear the words of Christ –  
“Follow me.”

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome Summit Church, my name is Curtis and I’m one of the pastors here. What an incredible last few weeks we’ve had...it’s been amazing to have a front row seat to what God is doing in and through **you** and I pray he does not let up this weekend, amen?

When I found out I was going to preach *this* weekend, the week after EASTER, my first thought was, “*What in the world am I supposed to preach then?*” What kind of message do I give you that’s better than “JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AND SAVE ALL OF HUMANITY”?!?

One of the things I’ve learned over the years is that *if preach from my weaknesses then I’ll never run out of material...*so today I want to preach on something that’s a daily struggle for me, and that’s the **sin of comparison**. I’ll say that again so everyone can groan louder: the **sin of comparison**.

The title of my message today is “**Freedom from Comparison.**”

Here’s some thick irony for you – let me give you some insight into the thoughts I’ve had to combat this entire week **while preparing a sermon on comparison**:

- “Great...everyone is already gonna be disappointed PJD isn’t here...I wonder what they’ll think of me. Maybe I should preach w/e he would preach on...? How would he preach on the topic of comparison? Should I also use the TV for my slides? Maybe I should tattoo my ring finger to be cool like him? Should I also say that I love Nicolas Cage? Is that too far?”
- This is real life, y’all, even for a pastor!
  - (Also, for the record, I think Nic Cage is the most overrated “actor” of our generation. Let it be known that Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson is 10x the actor Nic Cage will ever be.) **Alright, I digress.**

Comparison...Pastor Andy Stanley defines comparison this way:

**Comparison is determining where I am based on where everyone else is.**<sup>1</sup> (REPEAT)

No matter where we are in life we are always looking around comparing, thinking:

- *Why don’t I have as much as they have?*
- *Why don’t I have the opportunities they have?*
- *I wish I had the talents they have.*
- *I wish I had the looks they have.*
- *I wish I had the family they have.*

We do this **compulsively**, whether we know it or not. And social media has made this 1000x worse, right? **Think about it:**

- You finally mustered up the courage to hit the elliptical for 30 mins where you went 2 miles – you’re feeling great about yourself. Until you open up Instagram and see Crossfit Cory and how he did 2 miles worth of **handstand walks** while holding a kettlebell between his legs.
- Or maybe you’re just hanging out, everything’s good...until what? Until **you see your friend** out all **happy, eating sushi**

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<sup>1</sup> I owe much insight in this sermon to Andy Stanley’s series *The Comparison Trap*, preached at North Point Community Church.

with her **well-dressed man** while **you eat frozen pizza and your man is playing video games.**

- Come on, let's be real...I'm not wrong! Let me go ahead and lay an initial ground rule for you: You can't compare your real life with someone else's social media life. You realize that most people aren't all they "post" to be, right? Real life actually happens *behind* all of the crops and filters...I **promise you**, the grass *always* looks greener on social media.

**But this is how comparison works!** You'll just be chillin' and then you grab your phone and see your **perfect** little friend with her **perfect** little **cute journal** with her fancy creative **calligraphy**, writing **#goals** next to her perfect little **green healthy smoothie** and an **open book** next to a **pool**.

- Then all of a sudden, you're in an argument with yourself, *"Well isn't that nice FOR HER...If only I had as much free time as her. If only we made as much money as their family then I could spend all day making green smoothies and working out and looking like her and wearing nice clothes, too! If only I had what she/he has I would be satisfied with life."*

"If only" are two of the deadliest words in a Christian's vocabulary.

- **If only** I had as much money as him.
- **If only** I was as smart as her.
- **If only** I looked like her.
- **If only** my kids were as well-behaved as theirs.
- **If only** my parents weren't crazy – or in-laws weren't suffocating.
- **If only** I could speak, work, cook, travel, think, do, be like someone else...THEN I would be happy.

Comparison is such a "subtle sin" because it's **almost always internal**... and it's one of Satan's **greatest tools** against Christians because it's so easy for him to use. **He doesn't have to really do anything.** He just has to convince us to take our eyes **off of Christ** and **simply look** at something/someone else...because he knows we'll instantly begin comparing.

- **(CAVEAT: I'm not talking about Godly comparison... comparison is not inherently sinful.** In fact, the Bible *wants us* to be "imitators of those who **through faith and patience** inherit the promises."<sup>2</sup> **To some degree imitation requires comparison.** What we need to do is train ourselves how to compare properly, not cut ourselves off from the necessity of comparison. We need to lead our comparisons in the right direction — **away from** envy, pride, covetousness, and self-pity, and **toward** Christlike imitation and the fear of God.<sup>3</sup>)

This quote from **author Jaquelle Crow** perfectly sums up the kind of comparison I want to talk about today:

*"We are plagued by comparison. We compare our **bodies, our jobs, our families, our skills, our stuff, our intellects, in an ever-increasing desire for complete satisfaction. We want to be attractive, successful, and happy. So we measure ourselves against the people around us. But instead of resulting in contentment, our comparison delivers compulsive jealousy, pride, and shame. We envy those who are "better" than us, and we look down on those who are "worse" than us. And once we've started comparing ourselves, we slide into a bitterly insatiable cycle. The more we compare ourselves, the more we need to compare ourselves. It's an addiction. We're on a quest for acceptance and joy, but are paralyzed by the pressure to look, do, and be better than the people around us. Because of this, we are distracted from our purpose, mission, and need to pursue holiness. This is why comparison is so deadly.***"<sup>4</sup>

- *Anyone resonate with that?* About 5 of you, the rest of you can just tune out spend the next 30 mins polishing your halos, that's fine.

So what do we do with this? I want to show how Scripture answers the question of comparison. . . *Here's the big question comparison is asking: **Who or what is going to define my worth?***

- Put another way: **How can I know that I'm "enough?"**

<sup>2</sup> Hebrews 6:12

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/comparison-is-not-the-thief-of-joy>

<sup>4</sup> Jaquelle Crow, "[Seven Habits to Help You Fight Comparison](#)"

I want to look at a story in John 21, so go ahead and make your way there and while you're finding it let me tell you what's happened leading up to John 21...

## CONTEXT

The chapter right before, John 20, tells of Jesus's resurrection (last week). At the beginning of John 21 the disciples, led by Peter, have decided to **stop evangelizing** and doing all the things Jesus taught them and **go back to fishing** (*Jesus wasn't working on their timeline so they went back to what's comfortable...that's another sermon for another time*).

John 21 begins to zoom in on one disciple in particular: Peter

- In fact, if you were just reading the book of John, you'd feel like John 21 is sort of randomly tacked on to the end because chapter 20 feels like the natural ending → **Jesus has resurrected** and John has **concluded with his purpose statement** of the book where he *says I wrote these things so that you may believe in Jesus and have life in his name.*<sup>5</sup>
- But here's why it doesn't just end at John 20: **John's Gospel can't end until Peter has been brought back in.**
- See, the last time we saw Peter in this book he was busy **denying Jesus** he was headed to the cross.
- The book of John *can't* end **because the Gospel is not just about Jesus' story, it's about your story as well.** The gospel is incomplete in your life until the resurrection has been applied to you.

So John zooms in on Peter...and what we see is that Jesus finds them out fishing, they all rush to get to shore, and then they start having a little meal with Jesus.

- During this meal Jesus begins to, what looks like, pester Peter by asking him multiple times "Peter, do you love me?" Each time Peter replies, "Of course I do." But Jesus asks him three

times – see earlier Peter had **denied Jesus three times**, so now he's giving Peter **three chances to be publicly restored**. This is great news for Peter; he's been restored by the very Savior he denied! And that's where we pick up in v18...

## JOHN 21 (ESV)

Jesus says to Peter, <sup>18</sup>"Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (*"Peter, you're going to die by crucifixion."*)<sup>19</sup>(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

Jesus just told him, "You're back, Peter, and I love you. No hard feelings on that whole 'denying me' thing. Just follow me." You'd think his answer here would be, "Follow me? Absolutely! Where are we going? I'm willing to go anywhere and do anything you tell me to do, Lord. Let's go. **I am sent!**"

- But **here's why I love Peter** – he's so easy to relate to, because just when you think he can't do anything dumber, he goes and TOTALLY REDEEMS HIMSELF...

<sup>20</sup>Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. . . <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"

Again, Jesus has just told him: **"Peter, you're going to love me; lead for me, and then you're going to show the greatest courage for me by dying for me."** . . . And Peter immediately opens up Instagram and is like, "What about this dude?" And Jesus rolls his eyes one more time and says, *"For the last time Peter, will you stop comparing yourself to everybody else? Will you please put your phone away while we're talking?"*

<sup>5</sup> John 20:31

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, **what is that to you? You follow me!**” *What I decide to do with John, what is that to you, Peter? You follow me. Stop **looking at John** and **keep our eyes on me.***

- Peter was measuring his worth and value based on what Jesus thought of John. *“Jesus, how important is my mission compared to John’s?”*

Comparison causes us to look somewhere other than Christ to determine our value, our worth, and our happiness. So the first thing I want to do is look at the **cost of comparison...**

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## **THE COST OF COMPARISON**

Comparison always forces us to see the world through the lens of “better than” or “worse than.”

So you look at someone and determine that you’re “better than” or “superior” to them. The first cost of comparison is **PRIDE**. This is, as Andy Stanley says, living in **the land of -ER**:

- The land of -ER recognizes that it’s not just that we need to have something...it’s that **we need to have more -ER than someone else. I’ll be fine as long as I’m:**
  - *Thinn-er*
  - *Rich-er*
  - *Happi-er*
  - *Bett-er*
  - *Smart-er*
  - *Pretti-er*
  - *Healthi-er*
- **The land of -ER. This is where Peter was living – he didn’t just want to glorify Jesus; he needed to be glorify-er than John!**

This land isn’t new; it didn’t come about just in the social media age:

- **Luke 18** tells us the story of a Pharisee who stood up and prayed about himself: *“God, I thank you **that I am not the like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers, tax collectors.**”*
  - The Pharisee determined that as long as he was more -er than the “ers,” then he thought that made him **worthy** and **respectable** and **enough** in God’s eyes.

It’s easy to think, *“Well I would never pray that!”* But this is exactly what comparison does! Let’s be honest, Christians are **masters** at looking around and finding someone worse than them, right? Most Christians have **PhD’s in Pride**.

- Listen to this quote from **Trevin Wax** (this is gonna hurt): *“If you feel like you have reason to boast because you’re still a virgin, because you’re heterosexual, or because you’ve never been divorced, then you need a fresh dose of God’s grace. As long as you’re looking up to God for salvation, you cannot look down on anyone else.”*
- Paul says it like this in **Romans 12:3**, that we should **“not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think.”**
- Both Trevin and Paul are asking how can a Christian – someone who says, “I did **NOTHING** to deserve my salvation. I was **dead, lost, on my way to hell**, completely **unworthy**. I contributed nothing to my salvation except **SIN...yet Jesus stepped in and save me**” – how can we boast in anything other than Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus alone?!?
- **Pride is completely opposite of the faith we profess.** Pride only wants **glory for the self** and sees others, *in comparison,* **as threats to that self-glory.**
- If we are not *ruthlessly pursuing* humility, **pride will always hijack comparison.** Take your hands off the wheel, and your heart will immediately veer towards pride.

Another cost of comparison is that it leads to **JEALOUSY or RESENTMENT<sup>6</sup>**.

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<sup>6</sup> **James 3:16**, “For where **jealousy** and selfish ambition exist, there will be **disorder** and every **vile practice.**”

I have to imagine Peter resented John a little bit, here's why:

- John spoke in third person – “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” Anyone that does that is annoying.
- John goes to painstaking lengths to show him and Peter's competition: running to tomb
- He portrays Peter as kind of a goof.
- **I have to imagine Peter resented him just a little bit.**

**Jealousy** says “I wish I had it.” **Resentment** says “I wish they didn't have it.”

Tell me something: have you ever had that **friend who always has everything go their way**? And then, just maybe, for once, something *didn't* go their way and **internally** you actually rejoiced a little bit? (This is church here...**it's okay to not be okay.**)

- They call you and you're like, “Ohhhh noooo. I'm soooo sorry...”
- How messed up is that?!? What kind of friendship is that?!?
- You're **resenting God's blessing** on someone else's life because you're comparing what God has chosen to give them vs. what he has **supposedly withheld** from you! We trick ourselves in to thinking God has withheld something good from us, so it builds resentment **toward others and toward God**. How absurd!

Comparison always leads us to **resent** God's goodness in other's lives while **ignoring** his blessing in our own.

- Let me ask you something: *What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?*
- God, help us realize we don't need to be **jealous** when we have everything we need in **Jesus!**

Another cost is **INSECURITY**, because this is what the sin of comparison does: it makes us try to find an **external win** to satisfy an **internal longing**. Again, Peter needed to know, “Jesus, what am I worth **compared to John?**”

Listen: **there's no external answer to your internal spiritual need.**

- **External validation** from someone or something can never fill an **internal void**.
- That's why Augustine used to say, “Our hearts are restless, until they find rest in Christ.”
- A heart looking for peace will only find it in Christ, not in comparison. **External possessions** can never take the place of the **eternal Peace** found in Christ.
- Stop measuring yourself against others, only to feel like you come up short, and start looking to the Messiah for fulfillment and worth.

**Pride, jealousy, resentment, envy, and insecurity all** come from looking at others and comparing. “When you compare it leads to despair.” **Stop looking at John and start following Jesus!**

So that's the cost. *What's the cure?*

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## **THE CURE FOR COMPARISON:** ***Recognize Your Calling***

I think every single person has been given a **specific, unique**, and divine **purpose** in life. Think about it – the happiest, most joy-filled people you know in your life are folks that don't try to pretend to be anyone other than who God made them to be.

They've discovered the secret that it's hard to be **distracted with comparison** when you're **captivated by your calling**. John shows us that there are two distinct callings for every believer:

First cure for comparison is to...

### **1) Recognize Your Universal Calling**



Look back at v19...Jesus is talking to Peter, "...And after saying this he said to him, **"Follow me."**

<sup>20</sup>Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. . . <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? **You follow me!"**

In the book of John, Jesus's first and last words to the disciples were simple: "Follow me."<sup>7</sup>

- "Follow me. Become more and more like me." ← that's the universal call of every single Christian. **To become more and more like Jesus as you follow him daily.** That's it. Follow Jesus – look like Jesus.

One of my favorite verses in all of Scripture is Heb 12:1-2, **"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus..."**

Peter's calling – which is also our universal calling – is to keep our eyes on Jesus and run the race **marked out for us**. **When was the last time you saw an Olympic runner running like this (head sideways)?!?** No! They keep their eyes on the prize – the finish line – and they stay in their lane!

- Tap your neighbor and say, "Stay in your lane!"
- Your lane is this: **keep your eyes on Jesus and follow him.**
- Don't worry about what someone else is doing in their lane. God has marked out **your lane**, so keep your **eyes focused** and **follow him.**

Don't worry about what he's calling **John** to do – *what's that to you?* – just follow Jesus.

- *What's that to you that everything always seems to go that person's way? **Stay in your lane & follow me.***

- *What's that to you that she can manage 5 kids while keeping her house clean, affording Starbucks daily, and reading a book a week? **Stay in your lane & follow me.***
- *What's that to you that he doesn't even have to study and he still aces the test while you study your butt off and barely pass? **Stay in your lane & follow me.***
- *What's that to you, Curtis, that Pastor J.D. can preach the paint off the walls week after week? **Stay in your lane & follow me.***
- John's got a big house, nice car, a gorgeous wife, 2.5 kids, a golden retriever and a great job? *What's that to you? **Stay in your lane & follow me.***
- *What's that to you that **he/she/they** have/can do/possess BLANK? **Stay in your lane & follow me.***
  - *That's your lane: follow me.*

If you think you need Jesus *PLUS* something/someone that's in another lane to be happy or satisfied, you haven't seen the Jesus of the Bible yet. You've never truly met him.

- The beauty of the gospel is that even w/o stuff (talents, approval, things, good looks, money, w/e.) you are still loved unconditionally by God and he has **marked out a lane for you.**
- British pastor Charles Spurgeon used to say that if you are not content with what you have now, **you wouldn't be satisfied even if it were doubled**, because you haven't yet realized that Jesus is all you need.

For us as Christians we need to remember how good God has been to us in Jesus Christ. *We have* to come to the point where, if Jesus died for us and that's **"all"** he did for us, that it would be enough...that we've already been given more than we deserve.

Now, I know some of you are saying, "Dang, Pastor, you're right. I'm not grateful, and I really ought to be."

But *some of you* hear all this and you're like, "I get what you're saying, but I'm hurting...like *really* hurting. I've been through some

<sup>7</sup> John 1:43; 21:19, 22

real tragedy and it sounds like what you're offering me is a band-aid for my bullet wound. Gratitude isn't the cure-all for my suffering right now."

- If that's you, hear me: *No one here wants to minimize what you've been through. We want to walk through your dark valley **with** you.* You see, part of Jesus being "enough" is seeing that play out in the way we "weep with those who weep." So let me repeat myself: **Jesus really is enough.** He knows what it means to suffer, and he gave you his church to help you when you suffer and to walk alongside you.

During hard times it's so easy to look at how good someone else has it and compare and think God has withheld something from you.

- Hear Jesus's voice **lovingly declare**, *"Follow me and I promise I will sustain you in your suffering. I am enough."*

Forget about John; just follow Jesus. That's your universal calling.

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Second cure for comparison is to...

## 2) Recognize Your Unique Calling

Let's back up a few verses to v18...

<sup>18</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup>(**This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.**) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

Your unique calling is the **specific way** God has called you to glorify him. For Peter that was to die a martyr's death by crucifixion (v19).

- You might be asking why in the world Jesus would tell Peter this. How discouraging, right? *"Hey Peter, I love you, you're back, follow me. Oh and BTW, You're going to die by crucifixion."* **Wouldn't it have been better just to not tell him? How about some bedside manner, at least, Jesus?!?**

- No, it's important to tell Peter this. He needed to know that the next time he got into a life and death situation he would not deny his Lord. He needed to know that when they **took him** and **captured him**, and **tied him up**, and **stretched out his hands**, and **nailed him to a cross**, he would glorify God.
  - Peter didn't need **pity**, he needed **perspective**, and that's exactly what Jesus was giving him.
- I believe him knowing his unique purpose **put power into his life**. It put **boldness into his bones**. To the point that when it was time for him to die, tradition says he asked to be crucified upside down because he didn't think he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Savior.

How would your perspective change if you knew that what you were doing each and every day – *no matter how it turned out from a worldly standpoint* – **how would your perspective change if you knew it would all end in God's glory?**

- Because see for some of you your unique calling will be to go to the mission field and see many people come to know Jesus...for others it will be to pour into your neighbor in RDU for years and years, even when you don't see any sign of God moving in their life.
- For some your unique calling will be to raise your kids in admonition of the Lord day-in and day-out...for others it will be to suffer well in your pain of never having kids even though you so desire them.
- For some your unique calling will be to make lots of money in the business world...for others it will be to exude the joy found in Christ even when you don't have many worldly possessions.

Peter understood his unique calling...do you know what yours is?

- If you don't, spend some time praying about this. Ask the Spirit to reveal your unique calling. What are your giftings? Your skills? Your abilities? How can those be used for the Kingdom? What need is there that *you* could fill?

- Ask your community what they think you're good at. How do those closest to you affirm you?

Some of you right now have instantly jumped to comparing...you're thinking, "I'm not really good at anything. I don't have much to offer." You've reverted back to **insecurity** and **jealousy** and **envy** and, "If only I was like him or her *then* God could use me."

- Listen to this quote: "The way we continually talk about our own inabilities is an insult to our Creator. To complain over our incompetence is to accuse God falsely of having overlooked us." -O. Chambers, *Utmost*

Here's what I know: *If you **are** somewhere, God has **called** you there.* Wherever you are, at any given moment, God has sovereignly appointed you to be there and has something specific for you to do. God does not waste anything...and he most certainly will not waste your life. So don't you waste your life comparing your calling with someone else's!

You are **called** to do *exactly* what God has **designed for you** to do in the exact **time** and **way** he has called **you** to do it. That means you are one of a kind – so **why bother comparing what's designed to be one of a kind?**

- *Become **more and more like Jesus**, and **unlike anyone** God has ever created.*

Once you put your faith in Jesus, you're not "just" anything<sup>8</sup>...

- You're not just a **teacher**...you're God's representative in the classroom of what it looks like when Jesus teaches the Pythagorean Theorem.
- You're not just a **student**...you're God's representative at your university so they can see what Jesus looks like when he studies hard and shows up on time to class.
- You're not just a **nurse**...you're God's representative in the medical field of what it looks like when Jesus cares for someone who is hurting.

<sup>8</sup> This illustration, as well as the "two callings" idea I owe to the insight of Robert Madu from his sermon, "Danger of Comparison."

- You're not just a **barista**...you're God's representative at Starbucks so the coffee world can know what it looks like when Jesus serves a grande triple caramel macchiato, light whip with almond milk.
- You're not just **stay at home mom**... you're God's representative in your home so your kids can see how Jesus will never stop loving them, being patient with them, will always be faithful to them, will never give up on them, and will always be there to put band-aids on scraped knees and wipe tears away.

God **formed your inward parts; he knitted you together in your mother's womb...you are fearfully and wonderfully** and uniquely **made**.<sup>9</sup>

God made you *exactly* who you are and he does not make mistakes.

- REPEAT THIS: God doesn't make mistakes...and God made me.
- We compare 'cuz we're trying to feel special/worthy enough, but you don't know how special you are already because you've taken our eyes off of the cross, where God's loved was on display for you.
- **God doesn't make mistakes, and God made you!**

Jesus **chose** you and **appointed** you;

he will **equip** you;

his grace will always be **sufficient** for you;

he will **complete** the work he has begun in you;

and he has promised to **always be with you** 'til the end of the age!<sup>10</sup>

Who cares what John is doing. *What's that to you? Follow Jesus and glorify him by being exactly who God made you to be in Christ.*

<sup>9</sup> Psalm 139:13-14

<sup>10</sup> John 15:16; Hebrews 13:21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Matthew 6:6; 1 Samuel 16:7; Philippians 1:6; Matthew 28:20



## CONCLUSION (VAMP)

Comparison isn't just unhealthy for Christians; it's **downright antithetical to the faith we profess**. Yes, the gospel is a message of **radical acceptance**—but it starts with recognizing **we are not okay**. We're NOT **beautiful, worthy, successful, perfect, or better than** anyone else. We're all sinners, every one of us. But in Christ, God has **accepted us, cleansed us, clothed us, saved us, changed us, loved us, adopted us**—and he is the one who fulfills us to the point where we no longer need external validation because we have internally been satisfied.<sup>11</sup> Have you received him yet?

## BOW HEADS

**Who or what is going to determine your worth?** Only when your validation is from Christ and not anything/anyone else will you be able to stop searching and comparing, and be wholly satisfied...**that comes from receiving Christ personally**... Right there in your seat, you can pray something like this: *God I know I'm a sinner. I know I've tried to find my worth in comparing myself to others. But today I see Jesus clearly, and I want to receive him as Savior. I believe he died in my place, and I believe he is enough for me. If you just prayed that prayer I want you to tell someone before you leave today.*

Here's how I want to end – with heads still bowed and eyes still closed – I want everyone together to repeat these phrases after me and let them wash over your soul. Repeat after me:

In Christ...

I am chosen – 1 Thess 1:4

I am changed – 2 Cor 3:18

I am a new creation – 2 Cor 5:7

I am forgiven – Eph 1:7

I am blessed – Gal 3:9

I am victorious – Rev 12:11

I am set free – John 8:31

I am healed – 1 Peter 2:24

I am free from condemnation – Rom 8:1

I am more than a conqueror – Rom 8:37

I am dead to sin – Rom 6:2

I am alive with Christ – Eph 2:5

I am accepted in Him – Eph 1:6

I am complete in Him – Eph 2:5

## PRAY

*I pray we would stop comparing and start looking to Christ. Help us realize we are fully known and fully loved by you, O Lord. Would each of us today be able to declare alongside the Apostle Paul, “By the grace of God I am what I am.”<sup>12</sup> Jesus you are enough.*

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<sup>11</sup> Jaquelle Crow, [“Seven Habits to Help You Fight Comparison”](#)

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<sup>12</sup> 1 Cor. 15:10

