

HIS CHURCH LONDON

# FREEDOM

REJECTION

LECTURE 8

NATASHA MC NAMEE





## REJECTION

### INTRODUCTION

A successful person is one who is:

- Free to build good relationships
- Comfortable with him/herself as a person
- Free to be the person God created him/her to be

To be a success materially and financially does not make you a success as a person. We are the result of past experiences. We are born into a family unit, and it is in this unit that we grow and mature through relationships, and where our basic needs for love and acceptance are met. We get our self-image, self-worth, self-identity from that unit.

A failure on the parents' part to communicate love and acceptance will result in a love vacuum, and out of this vacuum grows rejection.

Important:

- There can be a root of rejection coming down from one generation to another
- Rejection can be inherited as well as communicated

### **Isaiah 53:1-3 (NIV)**

53 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.



## Isaiah 53:1-3 (NIV) Continued

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

## PRINCIPLES REGARDING REJECTION

- The basic need of a child is for love and acceptance. Love must be communicated in order to be received
- An unfulfilled need leaves a vacuum out of which grows rejection. (Every child has an emotional tank that keeps them going. If that tank is filled daily with love and acceptance, he/she will function well)
- A child receives their self-identity and self-worth from the parent relationship
- Rejection is crippling and destructive to one's total person
- Rejection will create an unstable relationship with God. It produces a striving spirit

## CAUSES OF REJECTION

- Parent Child Relationships
- Peer Relationship
- Society Relationships

### 1. PARENT – CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Before Birth:

- A mother can communicate rejection to an unborn child
- A mother passes her own rejection on to the child



## Adopted Children:

- Most have been rejected by the natural mother and have a sense of being unwanted

## Divorce:

- A child feels rejected by the parent who leaves home

## Other Examples:

- Parents who suffer from rejection often struggle to or, cannot communicate love
- Addict parent (alcohol/drug)
- Substitute giving of things for love – this is producing a generation of people who cannot give of themselves
- Pre-occupied – love means giving time and attention to someone else
- Critical, requiring perfection. These parents will only give acceptance if the child performs to the parent's expectations. The child knows that he/she has to earn love and a yoke of slavery is placed upon them
- Parental goals for children – forcing the child to do what he/she couldn't do
- Discipline through rejection – the parent will show disapproval by putting the child down. This will cut them down to worthlessness, creating a negative self-image. The parent projects an image onto the child of an unworthy person. The devil will use this to enslave the child

## 2. PEER RELATIONS

- Cruel remarks – e.g. if the child is overweight, has physical defects, etc
- Cliques and exclusion – can produce self-rejection
- Lack of achievement



## 3. SOCIETY

- Racism causes rejection of other people groups
- Poor people
- Failure to accept certain social values brings rejection

## RESULTS OF REJECTION

### EMOTIONAL IMMATURITY

- Maturity comes from relationships and a person who is denied love and acceptance will be immature and insecure.
- Emotional, social and spiritual maturity come from the father's love and acceptance. An unfulfilled need will be projected into a marriage – a girl who has not received a father's love will seek that love in marriage.

### LONELINESS AND FEAR

- Can't communicate or relate to people well.
- Afraid to let people get close for fear of further rejection. Dominated by fear of rejection.
- Needs warmth and love, yet becomes crusty and turns people off.
- Inwardly full of insecurity, loneliness, fears, self-pity, vanity, imagination.
- Outwardly – two extremes: withdrawn or competitive

#### *Withdrawn*

- Passive
- Shy
- Dream World
- Uncompetitive
- Builds up an imaginary concept of who they are



## *Competitive*

- Aggressive
- Striving Spirit
- High performer
- Need to excel to achieve sense of self-worth, if fails disaster
- Self-rejection

## SELF-REJECTION

- Becomes man-pleaser, always seeking acceptance and approval
- Negative self-image, accepting the rejection of others as indicative of their own worthlessness
- Accept people's evaluation of them instead of their own or God's
- Compare themselves to others (2 Cor 10:12)
- Critical spirit (of oneself and others) (Mt 7:3)

## LOSS OF SELF-IDENTITY

- Rejection destroys a person's self-identity
- Seeks identity somewhere else, e.g. teenagers in a peer group; adults in church, club, profession, etc
- Women with no identity become blank pieces of paper for husbands to write on

## UNSTABLE RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

- A child unloved by the father will have difficulty building a stable relationship to God as Father
- A child who grows up under rejection from either parent will accept rejection rather than love from God
- A person suffering rejection relates to God upon a basis of works and works hard to become acceptable to God



## LOVE VACUUM

Anything that you take to fulfil the need in a love vacuum will become an idol, an object or worship. Only Jesus can fill a love vacuum. Instead, people try to fill it with:

### PEOPLE

- No human can ever fill a love vacuum
- The person who has a love vacuum tends to want to draw people into this vacuum and suck the life out of them
- Example of love vacuum in marriage:
  - Spouse becomes smothered (draws life from them)
  - Spouse becomes worshipped (centre of life, manipulated).
  - Spouse becomes enslaved (demands made that can't be met; reaction of hatred and jealousy)
- The person with a love vacuum becomes jealous and possessive, domineering and has a controlling spirit. Will demand the other person's attention constantly and if this is denied, they feel rejected. It becomes a one-way relationship, with one person giving and the other receiving.  
*N.B. Don't allow the needs of another person to control you*

### GOALS AND THINGS

- Pleasure, career, intellectualism, promiscuity (the physical can never satisfy the spiritual)
- Possessions indicate success
- Career gives acceptance
- Intellectualism gives recognition



- Becomes totally self-centred
  - Pleasure – self gratification
  - Sex – lust and perversion
  - N.B. Can't receive love emotionally or spiritually. The body becomes the instrument by which love is given or received
- Religion - saviour image
- Position seekers
  - A person who has a love vacuum seeks a position of leadership because that is where he gets his self-worth
  - He/she will find it difficult to be a servant because it gives them no self-worth

## GETTING FREE OF REJECTION

- Forgive those who have rejected you
- Remember Jesus bore your rejection
- Find your identity in Christ
  - Isaiah 64:8, Psalm 22:9, Psalm 139:13-16
- Establish that God is your good Father
- Allow Christ to fill the love vacuum of your life
  - Rev 3:20, Song of Solomon 2:4, Psalm 18:24