

EVERYDAY LIFE

Monday, November 10, 2008

"God chose (you) to be His own." Ephesians 1:11 Today's English Version

"The One who chose you and loves you will never stop loving you."

My thoughts today are about **"being chosen."**

There are some **things you never forget, even when you try.** Junior High was one of those for me. I well remember the pain of not being chosen in Junior High PE classes. When teams were being chosen, I was among the last two or three that were not yet chosen by the team captains, so the teacher assigned us to a team. Because of size or ability (or lack thereof) we were not seen as able to contribute much to a winning effort, so we spent a lot of PE classes *"on the bench,"* waiting for a turn that rarely came.

Do you remember a school prom without a date, a love of your life who just wanted to *"be friends,"* the college of your choice which didn't choose you, your dream job that went to another applicant, or a marriage and divorce that left your heart in pieces - everyone has had some **experience of not being chosen, and it hurts** when it happens. But the Kingdom of God is different than anything you've ever experienced in life. **In the Kingdom of God, you have been chosen, and that choice will not change.**

And **the good news is this;** it is always and **only because of what He has done for you,** and because of what He wants to do with you. It is not on the basis of what you have done or have not done, nor on what you can or cannot do. *"Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes."* Ephesians 1:4 NLT. See 1 Corinthians 1:26-30 NLT.

Everything else in your life seems to be on the basis of your abilities, qualifications, and accomplishments, but not this. You are chosen for one reason, His love for you. It is the same for you as it was for God's chosen people, Israel. *"Your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure. The Lord did not choose you and lavish his love on you because you were larger or greater than other nations . . . It was simply because the Lord loves you . . . That is why the Lord rescued you with such amazing power from your slavery."* Deuteronomy 7:6-8 NLT.

When you do not feel others' acceptance, you will still know that you are always, *"accepted in the Beloved,"* and that will be enough. See Ephesians 1:6. Here is the rest of today's verse: **"God has chosen you . . . according to Him who works all things according to the counsel of His own will; that we who first trusted in Christ should live to the praise of His glory."** Ephesians 1:11-12 TEV/NKJV. Everything God does, or allows, in your life is in **perfect accord with what He has always purposed to accomplish in your life, "to the praise of His glory!"**

Understanding this can change your life, building a powerful and unshakable security in you. You will not be tempted to please others to gain their approval and acceptance. You won't compromise your virtue or principles to feel loved, because the **One who will never stop loving you loves you.**

My prayer for you today is to know that you are His first choice, and His eternal choice.

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