

A Thief Called Comparison Pt. 3

The Cure For Comparison

Discussion Noted- October 19, 2025

1. What's something good that happened to someone else that made you genuinely happy for them?

Comparison can easily steal our joy and gratitude when we measure our lives against others rather than seeing ourselves through God's perspective. We were each created uniquely in God's image and designed for good works that He specifically prepared for us. Instead of looking left and right at what others have, we're called to look up to Christ, who alone is our standard of righteousness. As believers, we should also look back to see how far God has brought us and look forward to the person He's shaping us to become. The cure for comparison is contentment in God's purpose and confidence in His ongoing work within us.

Read Genesis 1:26-27

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

This scripture reminds us that every person was created intentionally and uniquely in the image and likeness of God. This means our value, purpose, and identity come from reflecting His character; not from how we compare to others. When we understand that we were made to mirror God's nature in love, creativity, and goodness, it frees us from the need to measure ourselves against anyone else and instead live out who He designed us to be.

2. What's the difference between comparing yourself to others and comparing yourself to Christ?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Each of us has been intentionally crafted by God for a unique purpose. When we truly believe that God has already prepared good works for us, it shifts our perspective. We can stop comparing ourselves to others and start walking confidently in the path He's designed for us. Our daily attitude becomes one of trust, contentment, and focus on living out the calling He's placed specifically in our lives.

3. How would your daily attitude or mindset change if you truly believed that God is fulfilling His unique purpose in your life?

Read Colossians 3:1-2, 5, 9-11

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth... Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry... Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all."

In Colossians 3, Paul urges believers to live according to their new identity in Christ rather than their old ways of thinking. In the early church, Jews and Gentiles often compared themselves to one another. Each group found pride in heritage, tradition, or status. Paul confronts this mindset directly, reminding them that those distinctions no longer define who they are. Because they've been raised with Christ, their focus should be on heavenly things, not on earthly measures of worth or identity. In Christ, all believers are made new and equal, called to reflect His character rather than compete for position or approval.

4. What kinds of things do people today still use to measure worth or identity, similar to how the Jews and Gentiles did?

Read Psalm 138:8

"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands."

The same God who redeemed our past is the one refining our present and calling us forward into the person He designed us to be. Growth in Christ isn't about comparing ourselves to others, but about trusting the steady work of His hands in our own story.

5. What's one step you can take this week to grow into the person God is calling you to be as your "future self"?

Prayer/Closing:

- Thank God for redeeming our past and shaping our future in Christ.
- Ask for a renewed mind free from comparison and full of contentment in Him.
- Pray for strength to walk faithfully in the purpose God has called us to.

Deeper Dive: Paul- From Past Self to Future Calling

Paul's life is a vivid picture of transformation. Before meeting Christ, Paul (then Saul) was driven by comparison and competition. He was seeking to prove himself through religious achievement and zeal. His life was marked by status, knowledge, and power in Jewish society. But after encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus, everything changed. Paul no longer measured his worth by accomplishments or how he compared to others; his new focus became knowing Christ and fulfilling the specific calling God had placed on his life. Through his letters, we see Paul continually pressing forward; not to earn approval, but to live out the purpose for which Christ had taken hold of him.

Read Philippians 3:4-14

"...though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul reflects on his past achievements; such as his lineage, education, and religious discipline. By worldly standards, he had every reason to boast, yet he calls it all "loss" compared to knowing Christ. Paul models a shift from self-comparison to Christ-centered living.

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16

"I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life."

Paul looks back on his past with humility, not shame. He acknowledges who he once was but focuses on the mercy and grace he received. Rather than comparing himself to others, Paul uses his past as a platform to reveal Christ's abundant grace.

Read Acts 20:24

"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Paul's life reminds us that comparison fades when we focus on Christ and the purpose He's placed before us. We're not defined by where we've been or by what others are doing—we're defined by who we are becoming in Him.

1. What can we learn from how Paul viewed his past mistakes in 1 Timothy 1:12–16?
2. If you were to look at your "past self" and your "future self," what evidence do you see of God's grace shaping your journey?
3. Paul found contentment in Christ alone. What do you think that kind of contentment looks like today?