With God (Part 2) I Am Not Inferior
(Selected passages)

Introduction: Most people suffer from some form of inferiority. Even the attitude of superiority is evidence of feeling inferior deep down and in some area of selfhood. Inferiority comes by comparing those things in our lives which are unchangeable to those features in other people. If we go around comparing our parents or gender or physical features or mental capacity or race with others, we make them or ourselves the standard of what is acceptable rather than Jesus Christ. He’s the only standard of what is acceptable to God. And with God, I find that I am not inferior, but rather I am fearfully and wonderfully made by God’s divine design! It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. In this sermon series “With God” I want us to be encouraged and to know, that with God’s help we can face and overcome all of life’s most difficult personal challenges. This includes the challenge of “feeling inferior for God or around others.”

I. The cause of inferiority:
A. The comparison trap – (2 Cor. 10:7-12) God does have a universal inward ideal. It’s the Person and Character of the Lord Jesus Christ. The more you learn to live out of Him as your source of life, the more you will become like Him.
B. Faulty theology – (Mt. 16:24) Jesus was emphasizing the Christian life is not to be a self-centered, self-gratifying, and self-affirming life. Instead, we abandon selfish, personal ambition to serve Christ and God’s purpose for our life.
C. Sin and guilt –When we violate God’s word, we are guilty, feel remorse and disappointment in ourselves. (These feelings then lead to feelings of inferiority and the devil likes to remind us of our failures often. (Rev. 12:10; 1 Jn:1:9; Rom.8:1). We must learn to accept God’s forgiveness by faith.
D. Past experience – (Phil. 3:13) in a society that values success, it is difficult to experience failure, rejection and criticism. The truth is, failure is subjective, only you can determine if something has been a failure; Three steps forward and two steps back still equals one step forward.
E. Parent-child relationship –It is important as we think back, to remember, our parents were or are not perfect – but our heavenly Father is! (He will always treat us right, value us, and build us up.) (Rom. 8:15; 2 Tim. 1:7)
F. Unrealistic expectations –Setting achievable short term and long-term goals helps boost our sense of accomplishment and worth. (But when we live to honor and please God, not people, we can relieve a great deal of self-stress). (1 Cor. 10:31)
G. Faulty thinking – Sometimes we tell ourselves things that lead to feelings of inferiority (it’s an inside job) these things must be rejected for the lies they are! (2 Cor. 10:5)

H. Community influences - The things media, social media, peer pressure, things society emphasizes (physical attractiveness, money, education, power, intelligence and clicks) These things can all attribute to feelings of inferiority if we feel we don’t or can’t measure up. (Col.3:2)

The results of feelings of inferiority can be devastating if not dealt with and overcome...

II. Some cases of inferiority:
A. Moses – When God approaches Moses with the good news – Moses’ response is anything but good. (Ex. 3:9-12; 4:1-13) Moses’ response to God’s calling illustrates the truth, how we see ourselves affects how we interpret everything else around us.
B. Jeremiah – God told Jeremiah, He formed him, called him and set him aside for His special purpose before Jeremiah was ever born. Rather than be thrilled or rejoice over this news, Jeremiah responds, (paraphrasing here) “Are You joking? I don’t know how to speak for You, I’m just a kid!” Sound a little like us – “I can’t stand up for You Lord, I can’t speak up for You Lord, I’m no good, I’m not the right person for the job. Can’t you just find someone else Lord?”
C. Amos – a guy who by the world standards worth be below “needs improvement.” Amos shows us how we can overcome our insecurities and feelings of inferiority if we keep our eyes on the Lord instead of ourselves and others around us!
D. Paul – Paul handled his critics by reminding them he had God given authority and a God given job to do and he was going to do it. (2 Cor. 10)

III. The cure for inferiority: Realize...
A. Your value to God – Matthew 6:26; 10:29-31)our great value to God is seen in that He sent His Son to be sacrificed for us so, that we who believe are released from sin and reconciled to God. Can any greater value be placed on your life than that?
B. Your value to the body of Christ –Christ is the head – and the rest of us are the rest of body (fingers, toes, arms, legs, from the tiny organs to the most visible parts – that’s us!(1 Cor. 12). We must be content to be the parts God has designed us individually to be and fulfill that role! (1 Cor. 12:14- 25)
C. Your value of yourself - (Rom. 12:3)
1. We must realize we are made by God for God (Ps. 139:13-16; Eph.2:10)
2. We must realize that we are a work in progress (Phil 1:6)
3. We must refuse to compare ourselves with others – (2 Cor. 10:5)
4. We must respond correctly to our short-comings (2 Cor. 12:7-9; Gal. 6:17)

With God, I can know, believe, and accept “I am not inferior” – I am a product of God’s powerful hand and design! And my purpose and worth are found in Him!