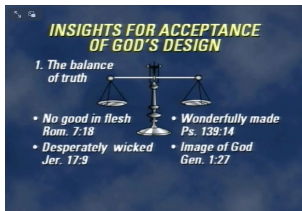


## Awesomely and Wonderfully Made – Part 2

*"<sup>14</sup>...for I am awesomely, wonderfully made! Wonderful are Your works and my soul knows that very well... <sup>16</sup> and in Your book were written the days that were formed when not one of them had come to be" (Ps. 139: 14-16)*

### Identifying a Problem (Review)

*Adonai* created everything and His creation is perfect. We (His creation) struggle with inferiority and self-acceptance and we struggle often. Do you know that there is such a thing as Biblical Self-Acceptance? Biblical Self-Acceptance is the overcoming of the Spirit of Inferiority and Self-Rejection.

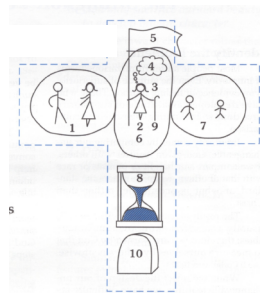


There is a wonderful Biblical Balance of *Adonai's* Truth in Scripture. On the one side of the scale there is *"nothing good in our flesh"* (Ro. 7:18) and on the other side of the scale we (which includes our flesh) are *"awesomely and wonderfully made by Adonai"* (Psalm 139:14). Also, on the one side our fleshly heart is *"desperately wicked"* (Jer. 17:9, KJV) and on the other side of the scale we are made in the *"image of Adonai"* (Gen. 1:27).

### 1. *Adonai* prescribed us before birth (Review)

*Adonai* created man in His image so that man could have fellowship with Him. *Adonai* is a Triune Deity, an *Echad* (One), and so are we. He formed man out of the dust of the ground (body) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (spirit), and man became a living soul (soul – mind, will, and emotions). Before we were born, *Adonai* wrote down (prescribed) all the details of our lives.

### 2. *Adonai* is not finished with us – we have 10 unchangeable features (Review)



*Adonai's* Ten Unchangeable Features are: (1) Parents, (2) Gender, (3) Physical Features, (4) Mental Capacity, (5) Race & Nationality, (6) Birth Order, (7) Brothers and Sisters, (8) Time in History, (9) Aging, (10) Death

Our outward appearance is the "frame" of the "picture" (the frame of the masterpiece) that *Adonai* wants to develop within our hearts. When the picture is finished, the frame will enhance its eternal message. But comparison causes inferiority. *"...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the Day of Messiah Yeshua"* (Phil. 1:6). 🎵 *"He's still working on me, to make me what I ought to be. It took Him just a week to make the moon and the stars, the sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars. How wonderfully patient He must be, He's still working on me!"* 🎵

### 3. Comparison causes inferiority.

We can always find somebody who we think is more attractive, or is more intelligent, or has a better family than we have. Whenever we compare these unchangeables, we tend to develop feelings of inferiority. Therefore, Scripture warns us not to measure ourselves by one another. We can, however, compare our attitudes and skills with others because these characteristics can be changed. *"For we do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves. But when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they have no understanding"* (2 Cor. 10:12).

### 4. *Adonai* has no outward ideal.

The whole concept of a *Miss America* or *Mr. America* or *Miss Universe* is misleading because it projects the false idea that there is a universal ideal of outward appearance. If there is any relationship between outward beauty and inward happiness, it is usually opposite to what we would expect. Many attractive people are very unhappy for several reasons. They often experience greater temptation. They resent being liked only for their outward appearance by people who do not understand or care about their inward needs. They fear rejection when their physical attractiveness will fade, and they themselves often

feel inferior and unattractive. When a former Miss America was asked if she would change anything about her appearance, she quickly said **yes** and listed several unchangeables that she had not accepted.

### 5. **Adonai** has an inward ideal.

Although **Adonai** has no outward ideal, He does have a universal inward ideal. It is the Person and Character of the Lord Messiah **Yeshua**. The more we learn of Him and become like Him, the more we experience true joy and fulfillment. **Yeshua** explained how happy those who are poor in spirit, and meek, and merciful, and pure in heart, and who have the other qualities listed in Matthew 5:1-12 will be.

### 6. **Adonai** may sacrifice outward beauty to develop inward character.

Because inward character rather than outward beauty is the key to true joy, **Adonai** will sometimes allow scars, deformities, or **defects** in order to produce the inward qualities of meekness, kindness, humility, patience, and gratefulness. These are far more important to success in life than appearance.

### 7. Different features are **Adonai's** frames to highlight His message in/through us

There is an infinite variety in picture frames. Some frames are tall, some are short, some are dark, and some are light. However, each frame is chosen to highlight the real message of the picture. Similarly, **Adonai** chooses our outward features to highlight the life message that He wants to give in and through us. Based on these facts, we will probably not understand why **Adonai** put certain things in our “frames” until we allow Him to develop His message of love and truth in our hearts.

### 8. Happiness and self-worth come by reproducing Messiah's character.

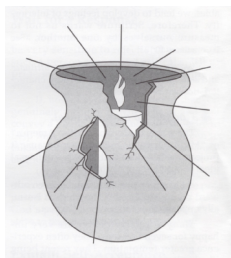
The Apostle Paul called the Believers at Philippi his joy and his crown (Phil. 4:1). He had invested himself in their lives and watched them grow spiritually. The scars, defects, and limitations that Paul experienced had special meaning to him. They represented his efforts to bring the Gospel to others and were the means of his receiving **Adonai's** grace, which gave him the desire and power to help others mature in Messiah. One of the most difficult questions about **Adonai** is **Why would He allow physical defects to occur?** The Apostle Paul answers this question when he explains that infirmities are **Adonai's** mark of ownership and the means of giving us more grace so that His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

### 9. Defects are marks of ownership.

Just as a rancher places a brand on a cow so its ownership is undisputed, **Adonai** allows scars and defects to remind us that we belong to Him. Rabbi Paul stated, “*...I have scars on my body to prove that I belong to Yeshua*” (Galatians 6:17). The Greek word for *mark* is *stigma*. It means **a sign of ownership**.

### 10. Defects can motivate us to develop the character of **Yeshua**.

When properly understood and accepted, physical defects will produce a godly humility. **Adonai** gives grace to the humble but resists the proud. Thus, the more grace we receive, the more desire and power we have to develop the character of **Yeshua** and to do His will. Based on this truth, Paul exclaimed, “*...I am very happy to boast about my weaknesses, in order that the Messiah's power will rest upon me.*” This statement was in response to **Yeshua's** promise, “*My grace is enough for you, for my power is brought to perfection in weakness...*” (2 Cor. 12:9). **Adonai** compares our bodies to “earthen vessels” which will suffer wear and tear on the outside so that the beauty of **Yeshua** might shine more perfectly from within. A physical defect is like a hole in a beautiful pottery vase. We see no reason for the defect, but **Adonai** knows that as long as the pot is intact, the splendor of **Yeshua's** beauty will not shine through. Bitterness over the defect will quench the light within and cut off the potential of letting others see **Messiah's** strength and radiance through our physical infirmities. When we repent from our bitterness and thank **Adonai** for His purposes for the defect, the light will be relit and brighten the paths of many others.



## **Steps of Action:**

### **1. Identify *unchangeables* or *defects* that you reject**

Review the ten unchangeables and determine if there are any that you have resented or for which you have never thanked *Adonai*. Ask yourself whether you have any bitterness for mental or physical defects.

### **2. Thank *Adonai* for each *unchangeable***

We are told in all things to give thanks, for this is the will of *Adonai* in Messiah *Yeshua* for us (*1 Thess. 5:18*). This instruction applies to unchangeable features and also to infirmities of the flesh. To give thanks is not the same as being thankful. Giving thanks is an act of our wills; being thankful is the response of our emotions.

### **3. Give special thanks for any rejected *defect***

If you have had a special rejection for a particular physical feature, it would be wise to pray, “*Lord, thank You for the way You made me, and I do now thank You especially for this physical defect.*”

### **4. List qualities which *unchangeables* could help develop**

After thanking *Adonai* for unchangeables and “defects,” it would be important to determine some of the reasons why *Adonai* has allowed them. Scripture teaches: “*...all things work together for good... {to conform us} to the image of his Son}*” (*Ro. 8:28-29*).

## **In Conclusion:**

- One who rejects self → doubts *Adonai's* control → rejects *Adonai* the Creator
- Rejects self → rejects others as well and does not accept his/her life partner
- Resents *defects* → feels inadequate and surrenders to moral impurity
- Rejects self → envies others and hurts them with criticism and gossip
- Rejects self → feels worthless and fails to attempt assigned tasks
- Rejects self → seeks out important people and boasts of accomplishments
- Rejects self → anticipates rejection and does foolish things for attention
- Feels inferior → wants their children to excel and puts undue pressure on them
- Rejects family → avoids being with them and becomes peer dependent
- Rejects *defects* → tries to hide them and conforms to passing fads
- Rejects self → needs status symbols to impress and goes into debt

Prayer:

*Shabbat Shalom!*