

The Search for Significance

By Robert S. McGee

False Beliefs

- 1. The Performance Trap** – “I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.”
Consequences – The fear of failure; perfectionism; driven to succeed; manipulating others to achieve success; withdrawal from risks.
God’s Answer – Justification – Justification means that God has not only forgiven me of my sins but has also granted me the righteousness of Christ. Because of justification, I bear Christ’s righteousness, and I am therefore fully pleasing to the Father (Rom 5:1).
- 2. The Approval Addict** – “I must be approved by certain others to feel good about myself.”
Consequences – The fear of rejection; attempting to please others at any cost; overly sensitive to criticism; withdrawing from others to avoid disapproval.
God’s Answer – Reconciliation – Reconciliation means that, although I was at one time hostile toward God and alienated from Him, I am now forgiven and have been brought into an intimate relationship with Him. Consequently, I am totally accepted by God (Col 1:21-22).
- 3. The Blame Game** – “Those who fail (including myself) are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.”
Consequences – The fear of punishment; punishing others; blaming others for personal failures; withdrawal from God and others; driven to avoid failure.
God’s Answer – Propitiation means that by His death on the cross Christ satisfied God’s wrath; therefore, I am deeply loved by God (1 John 4:9-11).
- 4. Shame** – “I am what I am. I cannot change. I am hopeless.”
Consequences – Feelings of shame, hopelessness, inferiority; passivity; loss of creativity; isolation; withdrawal from others.
God’s Answer – Regeneration means that I am a new creation in Christ (John 3:3-6).