SELF-ESTEEM FOR ETERNITY



Michael Caputo

SELF--ESTEEM FOR ETERNITY

Achieving True and Lasting Self-worth.

Michael Caputo

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INTRODUCTION

I would like to start this book with a question: Do you have cravings? Do you crave anything? Maybe it’s chocolate, ice cream, movies, vacations, peace of mind. We all have cravings.

What is a craving?

My Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary defines it as follows: "To long for, to desire greatly, to be in need of, to require." In short it is a strong, unquenchable desire.

In this book I would like to discuss a craving all human beings have: Self worth.

We all know what lack of self worth is. We all felt the consequences of low self-esteem. Feeling inferior is a terrible feeling. It’s a feeling that comes and goes; sometimes mildly, sometimes powerfully. Whether strong or weak, it is always unpleasant.

The human mind naturally craves self worth. It seems to be a natural human need that has been placed in us and craves to be satisfied. When it is satisfied, it leads to a deep sense of psychological satisfaction; when it’s absent, it leads to feelings of inferiority, insecurity and worthlessness.

The importance of self-esteem in humans can be quickly seen when one types in "self-esteem" in Google. The entries I found were over sixty-one-million, three-hundred-thousand.

Alfred Adler, one of the most recognized psychologists of the past century, coined the term, “Inferiority Complex.” He believed that our craving for self-worth is a natural part of us that we are born with. He also believed that we all carry within ourselves a continual sense of inferiority that we constantly try to overcome by achieving and becoming--but without really succeeding.

Thus the human mind needs, craves, self worth. Because of this great need, it uses many ways to achieve it. It plays sports to win and feel good. It learns skills to feel capable and competent. It seeks to accomplish notable or great things to achieve fame. It sometimes pursues educational goals to feel important. It pursues positions of responsibility in management to feel superior.

It pursues fame in entertainment to be known, loved, and appreciated worldwide, simply to achieve a high level of worth. It pursues power in business or politics to feel in control and, thus, have greater worth than others. Sometimes it simply plays mental games, or even creates self-delusions to feel special.

But no matter what the achievement, the craving always returns, for no academic, managerial, monetary, or political position or high level of fame will fully stop the craving. For there will always be others who will be better, and there will always be someone who will some day come around to take our place.

Most of all, humans know that failure is always creeping on the horizon. Even the greatest people on earth had to fight self-doubt, for after great achievements there is for certain deterioration and the ensuing inevitable loss of self worth.

MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE LOW SELF-ESTEEM

But what about us Christians? Is it any different for us? Do we crave self worth? Are we different from the rest of humanity?

To some degree, some may be. I would like to believe that most of us are different, but I would like to propose to you that we are different only in degree.

We too have cravings. We too want to feel a solid sense of self worth. Some less, some more.

We Christians also suffer when we're put down; when we fail; when we feel humiliated. We, too, feel discouragement; we too feel mental pain, depression and, at times, we too feel some anguish. And this happens in spite of knowing that we have been called by God Himself and that we have a supreme calling awaiting us.

I believe that the reason we have this craving is because God Himself has placed

it in us. I believe that the longing for achievement, the desire for glory and power is rooted in a craving that God has placed in us from the very beginning. Yet, God, in His wisdom has created a life designed to defeat the longing, to frustrate the craving, no matter what our attempts may be.

God has decreed that human achievement will not last. God has decreed that human worth will not last, because it is self-centered--it is self-seeking.

God has decreed that true self-worth will last only when it will finally be mixed with the very special ingredients of love, kindness, goodness, *etc.* which will be given forever to those who will become His spiritual children at the resurrection.

Let's look at that day, therefore, and let's be reminded of the time when the Great God will satisfy the craving forever. For God's aim is to fully and totally satisfy this unquenchable thirst--for eternity.

HOW WILL GOD SATISFY THAT CRAVING?

I have five basic points that I would like to share with you in this book on how God will finally satisfy the craving for self-worth in the world to come.

1. TO QUENCH OUR CRAVING FOR SELF WORTH GOD WILL GIVE US A NON-PERISHABLE CROWN.

Not a perishable, temporary one but an eternal one. A perishable crown perishes, that is, it ends; it disappears. A non-perishable crown last forever.

> "*To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away" (1 Peter 5:1-4 NIV).*

That same crown is awaiting all Christians, not just ministers. A crown is a symbol of kingly rulership. It signifies power and authority.

> *"John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:*
> *Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*
>
> *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6and has made us to be kings and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen (Revelation 1:4-6 (NIV).*

That is our destiny: to rule over cities, countries and the universe. Man's selfish longing for rulership will never satisfy the inner craving. In fact even the most powerful dictators where always craving more.

But the love-inspired positions of kingly rulership over the nations will. The love-inspired positions of kingly rulership over billions of angels will.

But first of all, divine love will have to frame it all -- not selfishness. The people who will receive those crowns will not feel proud, superior or arrogant. They will simply feel joy that they will have the opportunity to love and serve their subjects and offer them, protection, security, love and support. And that will be very satisfying.

2. GOD WILL FILL OUR NEED FOR SELF-WORTH BY GIVING US POWER BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION.

The day Christ appears; the day of our transformation we will be given **titanic** powers; powers that our minds cannot even begin to fathom.

> *"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power" (1 Corinthians 15:42-43).*

But power to do what? Just to look in the mirror and admire our spiritual muscles, to show off what we can lift, or throw?

In Satan's world power equals superiority over others. Power means the ability to assert oneself over others. Power means the capacity to instill fear in others.

Humans seek power energetically. They love to feel way above the rest; to Lord it over others.

Lord Acton once wrote, "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Thomas Bailey Aldrich believed that "The possession of unlimited power will make a despot of almost any man. There is a possible Nero in the gentlest human

creature."

Edmund Burke asserted that "The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse."

"No man is wise enough or good enough to be trusted with unlimited power." wrote Charles Caleb Colton

The power we will be given could be used to intimidate others and to get others to submit--in terror.

We will have power to make whole armies lift up higher and higher and higher in horror and then make them drop miles below in utter terror, if we wanted to.

We will have the power to incinerate a whole city in one instant if we wanted to– or one block at a time while others watch in horror.

We will have power to make a whole nation disappear in one instant, or one city or province at a time, if we wanted to.

We will have power to throw planets around and smash them against other planets and have a ball, like a psychopathic demon, if we wanted to.

But such evil thoughts won't even cross our mind.

Our power will be benevolent power, because the Force that will rule over it will not be Satan. The power that will rule over it will emanate from the God of Love. The power will be used not to lord it over others, not to intimidate others, not to terrify others, but it will be used to heal the multitudes, who will be semi-starved because of the Great Tribulation; to heal the severely burned, the severely maimed, to give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, the ability to speak to the dumb and the ability to walk to the paralytic. It will be a power that will give joy to others, by blessing their efforts and rewarding their goodness,

and giving comfort when people are in distress.

It will be a power that will heal nature from the deterioration man has brought upon it, that might resurrect extinct animals destroyed by the greed and foolishness on man and that will create new life forms, new animals, new plants to give joy to our spiritual brothers and sisters.

> *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God (Romans 8:19-21).*

Yes, figuratively, poisoned oceans, lakes, rivers, plants, animals, all of creation long for the freedom from the abuse that humanity has been subjecting them to, which the powerful, but loving children of God will bring to them. Power for good; True, fulfilling, satisfying power that will fill our craving for worth forever.

3. GOD WILL FILL OUR DESIRE FOR WORTH WITH GLORY.

What is glory? Funk and Wagnall's defines it as follows:

1. Distinguished honor and praise.
2. Exalted reputation
3. Woshipful adoration
4. magnificence, splendor.

Everything that most humans would dream of getting today, but cannot.

The world has had its Caesars, its kings, its emperors, its Hitlers, its Mussolinis and its Stalins.

They all built great monuments, palaces, triumphal arches, pillars, statues—all to their own glory.

And they all looked at their accomplishments in wonder and said or thought … more or less what Nebuchadnezzar said in Daniel 4:29

> *"At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.*
>
> *30The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"*

We know the rest of the story, and the humbling that followed.

But all the so called great leaders of this world built to “the honor of their own majesty,” to use Nebuchadnezzar's words. And what happened to those glorious works?

The great hanging gardens of Babylon – Gone.

The city of Babylon -- Gone.

Nineveh -- Gone

The great cities of Egypt – the glory of the mighty Pharaohs -- passé.

Today, The Colosseum, the glory of ancient Rome – is partly gone.

Napoleon’s glory – Gone.

The glory of the great and mighty European empires of the 18-19th century – Melted away.

The glory of the Nazis, Fascists, Communists -- Gone!

And Solomon – the most glorious king in the Bible?

What happened to his glory?

1 Kings 10:1-7 **(NIV)**

"10 When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. 2 Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. 3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at[a] the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. 7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. 8 How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! 9 Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness."

10 And she gave the king 120 talents[b] of gold, large quantities of spices,
and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those
the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

11 (Hiram's ships brought gold from Ophir; and from there they brought great cargoes of almugwood and precious stones. 12 The king used the almugwood to make supports[d] for the temple of the LORD and for the royal palace, and to make harps and lyres for the musicians. So much almugwood has never been imported or seen since that day.)

13 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country."

"14 The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents, [15]
not including the revenues from merchants and traders and from all the
Arabian kings and the governors of the territories.

16 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. 17 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold, with three minas[g] of gold in each shield. The king put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon.

18 Then the king made a great throne covered with ivory and overlaid with
fine gold. 19 The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. On
both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of
them. 20 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step.
Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom. 21 All King
Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace
of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver,
because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days. 22 The
king had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once
every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and
baboons.

23 King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings
of the earth. 24 The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the
wisdom God had put in his heart. 25 Year after year, everyone who came
brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and
horses and mules.

26 Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses,[i] which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. 27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills. 28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue—the royal merchants purchased them from Kue at the current price. 29 They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty. They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans."(NIV)

Tremendous wealth; but did it satisfy the craving? It should have; but did it?

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

"I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter —"Madness!"; and of mirth, "What does it accomplish?" 3 I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.
4 I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. 5 I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove. 7 I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me. 8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds.

9 So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.
10 Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them.

I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure,
For my heart rejoiced in all my labor;
And this was my reward from all my labor.
11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done
And on the labor in which I had toiled;
And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind.*"*

"Grasping for the wind." What an amazing expression. Have you ever tried to take a fistful of wind? You can feel it; you can hear it; but you cannot hold on to it. You can try to catch it but it never works.

The pursuit of human glory is the same. You may feel that you finally have it and then it blows right by you--like the wind.

But we are looking forward to the real thing: True, lasting glory.

Hebrews 2:10

" For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Christ was the leader. The one who led the way into true glory, for us who will follow him into true glory.

Romans 8:18

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Philippians 3:20-21

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body…"

And how does His glorious body look like?

Revelation 1:10-16

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, ***and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength****.*

This, therefore, is what the dictionary definition of glory refers to:

1. Distinguished honor and praise.

Much honor, from the billions on the earth and the billions of angels.

2. ***Exalted reputation.***

Well known and highly respected.

3.Worshipful adoration.

Adored by all who know that we represent the Almighty Himself.

4. ***Magnificence, splendor.***

Magnificence and Splendor beyond our imagination.

Will this finally fill the craving?

Will it satisfy the hunger for worth?

4. GOD WILL FULFILL OUR FEELING FOR WORTH BY GIVING US A NEW IDENTITY.

Today we are known as Mike, the teacher, Jim, the doctor, Frank, the mechanic, Kathy, the manager, Mary, the widow and Don, the pensioner.

Some take pride in the letters after their names. BA, MA, M.Ed, M.Sc., D.D., Ph.D., M.D., and on and on.

Our identity, in the future, will simply be that we will be **children of God.** That will be our **new** identity. That will be the truly lasting, satisfying identity that awaits us; the fact that **we will be special children of the Creator; very special in God's eyes.**

> ***Malachi 3:15-17 (KJV)***
>
> *"And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.*
>
> *16Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*
>
> ***17And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels…"***

It takes millions of years for forces within the earth to shape diamonds and other jewels. It takes much patient, cautious, loving, cutting and polishing for the totality of a diamond to be revealed. This is how God sees us. We are jewels in the rough, which will be brilliant, shining, gorgeous jewels in the end; not any jewels: **His jewels**; made precious by God in person. Made stunningly beautiful by a plan **specifically designed** for each one of us **by God Himself**. Cleansed, perfected, made very special by Him, and Him alone.

In that day, our names will not be Caesar, or Czar, or Fuhrer, or great leader, or glorious king, or mighty emperor, or supreme ruler. It will be more magnificent

than anything humans could ever conceive:

"Son/Daughter of the most High God."

Fellow inheritors with Christ; "Inheritors of all that God has; Superior to angels, by far.

That will be our new magnificent identity. And that will definitely help to satisfy our craving.

5. GOD WILL SATISFY OUR CRAVING BY FRAMING THE WHOLE PACKAGE WITH ETERNITY.

The greatest despair that befalls humans today is to strive to accomplish; to become; to achieve; and then to see it all end.

Abraham Maslow, the famed psychologist, tells us that when our fundamental human needs are satisfied, we will try to become the most we can become. So we reach for the stars: in business, education, technology, science, the arts, literature, philosophy, politics.

We reach for the stars in accumulating money – like Warren Buffet, or Bill gates, two of the richest men in the world – but even they know that there are only a few years left.

Nothing that humans achieve will last. The great enemy, death, shatters, obliterates, and dissolves, all that humans build. Death eats it all, no matter how lofty or glorious one has become.

Let us read now a famous poem, by P.B. Shelley, a great British author, that captures this anguishing reality most eloquently.

Ozymandias

By P. B. Shelley

I met a traveller from an antique land

Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone

Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand,

Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown

And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command

Tell that its sculptor well those passions read

Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,

The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.

And on the pedestal these words appear:

`My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings:

Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!'

Nothing beside remains. Round the decay

Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,

The lone and level sands stretch far away".

And that is all that is left, figuratively, of all the hundreds of human rulers who in the past enjoyed great glory--but for a while. And time has all but turned their glory into dust.

But Christians will have the real thing–the real lasting thing.

1 Peter 1:3-4

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according

*to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to **an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away,** reserved in heaven for you…"*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
*15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. **And thus we shall always be with the Lord.***

Not in Hollywood; not in the White House; not in Downing Street;; not in Versailles; not in any other glorious royal residence of the past; but in a very special place indeed.

Revelation 3:12

"Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name."

People crave medals. Medals are a way of giving humans glory for outstanding achievements. How about a medal with the New Jerusalem's name on it? How about a medal with Christ's name on it? How about a medal with God's name on it? **Given to us by Christ himself.**

Of course these names will not be on medals. They will be written on us and **will be with us forever.** They are not medals; but they are similar to medals in meaning.

They are an acknowledgement and a great reward for being faithful to the end. For finishing the toughest race there is. A race beset with challenges, barriers, stumbling blocks, tremendous mental anguish at times; a race where the enemy is a roaring lion seeking to devour us.

Generals parade their medals any opportunity they have. They are medals conferred on them by fellow humans, and, deep inside, the men or women that wear them as they get old must realize **that death some day will end everything they represent.**

But these three names written on us are the greatest medals anyone could ever receive. It is the greatest honor anyone could have; The name of the city of God; the name of Jesus Christ and the name of God Himself conferred on us by Christ Himself. **And they will be on us forever**. Just as the crown will be on us forever, the names will be on us forever as well.

I have a medal I found many years ago while digging for coins near my house.

It's a medal won by someone in a race. It has on it three runners, one of which is clearly winning the race. Someone proudly wore this medal after a tiring race, sometime in the past. It may have been a very long time ago, as I found it under ground with some very old coins. This medal was well protected by the proud winner **until he died**. Then, after his death, it was probably kept by a relative, and finally it was lost and ended up underground waiting to be found by a 10-11-year-old child.

The medal is still here. The winner is not. **Death put an end to his joyful pride.** And this is so symbolic of human achievement, of human worth **in a temporary world**.

Our new, powerful bodies; our imperishable crown; the glory that will emanate from us; our new identity; our eternal rewards will **never** fade away, **and death will have no power over us**--**Ever!**

CONCLUSION

Today human nature craves that which is so hard to achieve -- so hard to retain. It tries desperately to achieve it in any way it can. But we know that no matter how much humans try, that craving will not be satisfied until the great day of Christ's appearance.

Let's be deeply grateful to our Great God and Jesus Christ, that the ongoing, frustrating, at times exasperating longing for self worth will be finally satisfied and that the craving will be finally fulfilled – **not temporarily, but forever, and ever and ever**.

Michael Caputo
Minister since 1985
Award-winning author or *God Seen Through the Eyes of the Greatest Minds*

(Now, **The Greatest Minds Believed in God** -- **Kindle Downloadable** -- **We Believe in God** -- **Amazon Paperback).**

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