

9 Self-Image

[Exodus 3:1-15](#); [4:1-17](#)

Few people today are immune to the effects of our fragmented, impersonal and fiercely competitive society. Many of us, both inside and outside the church, have been bruised by broken families and relationships. These wounds have not only damaged our self-images but have also hindered us from responding fully to God's love and purposes for our lives.

Moses, like many today, felt insignificant and inadequate. He had been raised in the courts of the king of Egypt in great wealth and with the best of education and training. But witnessing an act of unrighteousness against a fellow Jew, Moses took matters into his own hands and killed a man. As a result he was forced to flee to Midian, where he spent the next forty years herding sheep. At the beginning of [Exodus 3](#), he is eighty years old and has accomplished very little in his life.

1. Why do you think so many people struggle with a poor self-image?
2. Read [Exodus 3:1-15](#) and [Exodus 4:1-17](#). Describe the setting in [Exodus 3:1-3](#).
3. In [Exodus 3:4](#) God calls Moses by name. What does this tell Moses about God?
4. Why does God send Moses to Pharaoh ([Exodus 3:7-10](#))?
5. In [Exodus 3:11-15](#), Moses raises two objections against his going to Pharaoh. What do these objections reveal about Moses' view of himself and God?
6. In what situations do you feel inadequate to do what God commands or desires?

How can God's reply to Moses encourage you ([Exodus 3:12](#), [14-15](#))?

7. How is Moses' third objection in [Exodus 4:1](#) understandable but inexcusable, especially in light of [Exodus 3:18-20](#)?

8. How does God reassure him in [Exodus 4:2-9](#)?

What are some of the resources God has given you to accomplish his will in a difficult or fearful area?

9. In [Exodus 4:10](#) Moses claims that he lacks the gifts to serve God effectively. How does his view of himself differ from God's perspective ([Exodus 4:11-12](#))?

10. When is it legitimate to admit that we are unqualified for an area of service, and when is it merely a faithless excuse?

11. In what way can a poor self-image become sin ([Exodus 4:13-17](#))?

12. In what areas do you allow your self-image to be determined by your emotions or by other people rather than by God and his Word? Explain.

13. According to this passage, how should our self-image be affected by our image of God?