

DO YOU FEEL GOOD?

It is God's will that people be able to feel good about themselves. A part of the mission of the church is to make people feel good. At the same time, it is not to gloss over sin with a kind of "I'm okay, you're okay, everyone's okay" philosophy. We need to feel bad before we can feel good. I mean by this that the Bible teaches that "There is none righteous, no not one...all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:10, 23).

The Bible speaks of us as being lost, and Jesus came to "seek and save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10). It was through His blood shed at Calvary that Jesus made available to us the "remission of sins" (Romans 3:25). Those who through penitent faith in Christ are "baptized into Christ...(and) into his death" are then raised from the watery grave of baptism to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:1-4), thus being enabled to truly feel good about themselves. Salvation is the aim, and happiness is the result, regardless of unhappy circumstances in one's life. In Christ one can through pride, but through

(Continued from front) trusting the grace of God available to us in Christ. As Paul wrote, "Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

Truly, Jesus is "the Way" to the Father—"the Way" of salvation and true and lasting happiness. (John14:6).

—Ron