

COMPARISON

PRECEPT

EPHESIANS 2:10

¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

PROMISE

No matter what race or size you are, no matter where you live today, or your current status, job, or even what tax bracket you're in, it does not matter. Did you know that the reason our world is in chaos today is due to comparison? It's the reason why people kill each other, and are not content with what they have; it all stems from comparison. We sometimes look around us and see other people have something we think is better, and we get jealous; we covet. We compare because we want something for our selfish gains. Theodore Roosevelt says, "Comparison is the thief of joy." Comparison blinds us to God's grace; we tend to focus on what other people have rather than the constant provision and relationships we have. When we compare, we forget the grace we have received — the daily mercies, answered prayers, and God's faithfulness to us; instead of rejoicing, we become ungrateful. Comparison breeds bitterness and isolation; it turns celebration to conflict; it creates division. How many relationships have you lost because you couldn't celebrate someone else's win? Moreover, comparison distorts our view of the father. When we compare, we question God's goodness.

CONSTANT CELEBRATION. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, Pray continually, Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Rejoice and celebrate with others. The grass is not greener on the other side. The grass is greener where you water it, so water those dead relationships and celebrate with them, even when they don't celebrate your wins.

CONFIDENCE IN YOUR CALLING. Hebrews 12:1 tells, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us." God has called you to run your own race. If you're focused on someone else's every step, you will stumble on the thing that God has called you for, the lane that he's called you to run. Stop comparing your seed to someone's tree because growth takes time.

COMPARE ONLY TO CHRIST. 2 Corinthians 10:12 says, "We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise." The reason many of us fail is that we have the wrong mindset of what our standard should be. There should only be one standard, and that is no other than Christ. We all need the grace of God; we are no better than anyone else in this world, so don't compare yourself to other people, only to Christ.

PRACTICE

1. **Compare.** What triggers your comparisons, and how do you typically react?

2. **For change.** What are some practical steps/actions you could take to reduce triggers about comparing other people or yourself to others? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Leaders

- May God grant them wisdom and discernment as they guide His people.

II. Circles

- Pray for the Manalo couple as they continue to lead our young pros & youth to God.

III. North Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo, Ico & Imperial.

IV. West Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Oliveros, Fabregas & Padilla.

V. East Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo & Torres.

VI. South Life Groups

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

VII. World

- May the whole world come to know Christ, His transforming power.