

Boosting Self-Esteem?

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” Philippians 2:3, NKJV.

What is self-esteem? It is how we value ourselves; it is how we perceive our value to the world and how valuable we think we are to others. Self-esteem is your overall opinion of yourself — how you feel about your abilities and limitations.

Helped by a concerted effort of teachers, education professionals, and parents, American students have achieved the highest self-esteem rating in the world.

Do American students have good reasons for their high self-esteem? It would not appear that way. Every three years the Program for International Student Assessment tests 15-year olds in reading, math, and science. In 2009 the results placed students from Shanghai top in all three areas. The American students ranked 17th in reading, 31st in math, and 23rd in science.

A large culprit in this interesting equation was and still is the American Self-esteem movement, which is responsible for the dummying down of American textbooks while pressuring teachers to inflate grades so kids at the bottom of the performance scale don't feel bad about themselves.

What shall we say about **our** students? What does God say? He presents some interesting observations. First, He says that our children have been created in His image. They are not the result of mindless evolution but from the loving hand of Almighty God. Although that image, in our children too, has been defaced with sin, God sent His Son into this world to restore that image. Our children belong to the Lord Jesus, and it is His exciting work to make our children to be just like Him.

We will not say that is a reason for raising our children's self-esteem, but it is a reason for them to feel privileged, to be filled with joy, and for our children to esteem their Lord as the loveliest and best in all the world.

Jesus is present every day at Coram Deo in our songs, our studies, and our Scripture. He is showing Himself, He is showing His wonderful works, and He is showing that His work is making your children more like Him every day.