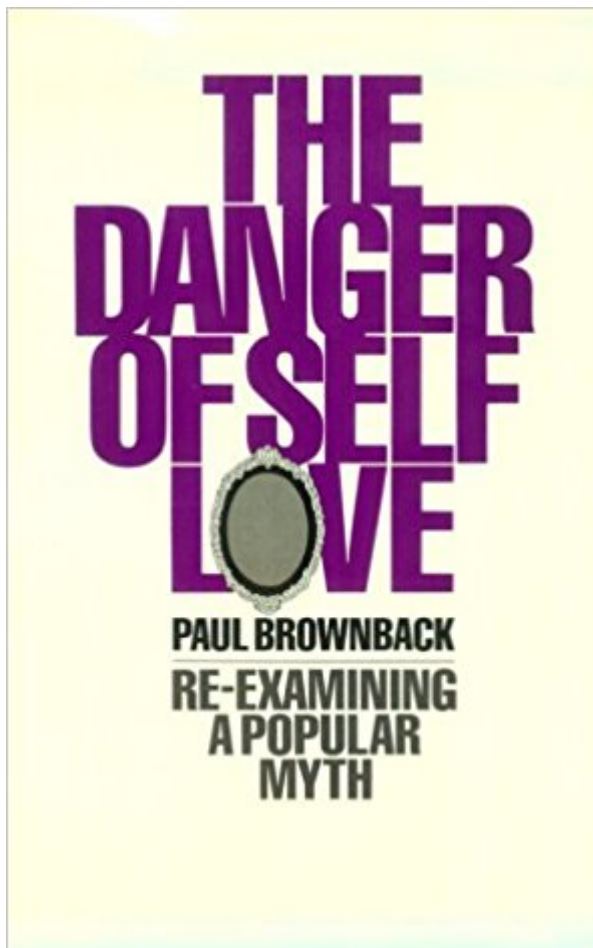


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Danger Of Self-Love



Synopsis

This book analyzes the contemporary self-esteem movement from a biblical perspective. It discusses its secular philosophical and psychological backgrounds, explains how it has infiltrated the evangelical worldview, and examines the various arguments used to demonstrate that it is compatible with Scripture. It concludes that the concept of self-esteem propagated by secular and evangelical sources is not biblical, but instead is doing substantial damage to individuals and relationships. It offers and supports an almost universally overlooked alternative that is thoroughly biblical in nature and that promotes behavioral, emotional, and relational health. This book can be used effectively as a self-help manual, as a textbook, or as a personal guide to understanding contemporary culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I can't love others if I don't love myself first." This popular, contemporary concept is erroneously based on Jesus' statement..." -- Albert James Dager: Media Spotlight Brownback simply compares Scripture with the current self-esteem teaching in most churches and the churches come up wanting. -- A reader from Portland, Oregon Psychology teaches that man cannot love others until he learns to love himself. This excellent books reexamine this popular myth. -- Christian Information Bureau

The author was born and reared in Southeastern Pennsylvania. He graduated from West Point and served in the Army for four years in Germany and Vietnam. He earned a Masters of Divinity degree

from Talbot Theological Seminary, a Masters in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma, and a Ph.D. from New York University in Religious Education. He served as dean of Word of Life Bible Institute, as President of Citadel Bible College, as pastor of Tulsa Bible Church, and in full-time counseling, both in private practice and on a pastoral staff. He has spoken from coast-to-coast in seminars dealing with counseling-related issues.

The sub-title to this book is "Re-Examining a Popular Myth" and this is what the author does; and quite well I might add. I can't begin to convey how much this author did in helping me see how this self-love concept has infiltrated the church and what the scriptures say and do not say regarding this topic. He deals a lot with man's theories and always brings it back to what does God and the holy scriptures say. I can always tell how good a devotional book is after reading it, when I go back through the book and see all the notes and underlining I have done while reading. This book is filled with such things. I will say the beginning chapters and ending chapters were the best because the middle of the book spent a lot of time discussing the humanistic world views and the men who first promoted this self-love theory. I highly recommend this book and will keep it on my shelf as a tool to use when dealing with this subject.

As someone who studied psychology and social work prior to salvation, much of the information regarding Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow took me back to those prior days of study. I hadn't realized just how pervasive these self-theory concepts and beliefs were in much of today's evangelical thought. They are clearly diametrically opposed to each other. Biblically, humility and recognition of spiritual bankruptcy are present not only upon entering the kingdom of God (Matt 5:3-12), but sanctification and spiritual growth is the victory of humility over remaining fleshly pride. Paul describes this lowly walk of the believer in Ephesians 4:1-3, and there are numerous other passages that emphasize this. The author does a thorough job in pointing out the fallacy of much of today's thought. He especially does a great job in showing that biblically we are taught to direct our focus upward and outward, to God and others, and not inward to our own self feelings. I hope that this book will someday be revised. It is greatly needed, perhaps even more today than when it was written 30 years ago.

This book predicts the problems that occur when the church embraces the philosophies of psychology over the realities of Christian living. The self-centeredness of our outlook is especially addressed. Excellent insight.

Good book. Everyone should read it.

I had a copy and lost it, I wanted to read it again as it is a wonderful book, must read for every christian.

A good Christian read; very on-point.

The author, Paul Brownback, has written an insightful, biblically sound treatment examining the humanistic roots of the 'self-esteem/I must learn to love myself' teachings that have permeated evangelical christianity. His focus on what Christ and the Word of God teaches brings grace, hope and renewed encouragement for all of us who have been in the quagmire of trying to 'figure ourselves out'.

As humans, we tend to extremes. God's word is balanced. To love oneself over others is narcissism, not love which requires a giver and a receiver. Love is relational. God is love, 1 Jn. 4:16. The Father loves the Son (Mt. 17:5) and the Son loves the Father. The Son loves us and gave His life for us that we may live in His love and in the Father's love. To not love oneself is contrary to scripture: Lev. 19:18; Mt. 19:19, Ro. 13:9 tell us to "love your neighbor as yourself." This is God's command to us. If we do not love ourselves, we do not value our self as created in God's image nor do we recognize God's image in others. To not love oneself is sin. It is defying God's specific command to us. This sin is evidenced in two ways: self devaluing, lack of care, loathing, risk-taking, addictions, etc. and indifference toward others that expands outward to active hatred. 1 Co. 13 describes what love is and how we can recognize genuine love. 1 Jn. 3:16 also says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers (or each other). 1Jn. 4:10-11 "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." If this is what you learn from Dr. Brownback, praise God! If not, hold to what the whole of scripture says.

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