

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

October 2011

I was recently preaching at Memphis Union Mission, a rescue mission downtown. I spoke on the subject of Abiding Above Inferiority. Many men and women came up to me with their personal stories about how they wrongly dealt with feelings of inferiority.

As I listened, it was clear to me that the substance abuse, which is part of their lives, came about as they tried to suppress those feelings. The addictions that trouble so many people can be traced back to feeling inferior to others. My friend, we are on a slippery slope when we compare ourselves with others physically. God made you just the way you are. God can never make a mistake.

Comparing yourself with others intellectually will lead you down a wrong path. Be a lifelong learner and be free from comparing yourself with others who have a different background than yours. You cannot know everything and you cannot know everything someone else knows. Let God lead you in what you should learn. Most importantly, know God's Holy Word. That is eternal wisdom, my friend, and not a trivial pursuit.

Another trap people find themselves in is comparing themselves with others financially. Jesus said in **Luke 12:15** - *“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”*

My friend, God alone and what God provides for you is all that you need.

There is a young boy that I am discipling at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home who is very much enjoying the lessons that I am taking him through. He said recently, *“If I had not been going through these discipleship lessons with you, I would never have known how much God loves me and that He is a loving God instead of a boss. I have always been told He is the boss and I guess I have seen God as mean.”*

Yes, my friend, God is the boss, but it is better to say He is our loving Lord. Many people view God the way they view earthly authorities like dad, mom, policemen, teacher, or coach. This can be good if the adult is a good example of Christ-likeness, but it can also be bad if the one in authority is immature.

Jesus said in **Matthew 20:25-28** - *“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

I recently attended a fellowship of a class I taught seven years ago. I was moved to tears as I heard them recall what they had learned under my teaching. One lady said, *“I still remember those pictures you showed in your PowerPoint presentations to illustrate the truths of the believer’s identity in Christ. It was then that it became clear to me that I was in Christ and Christ was in me.”*

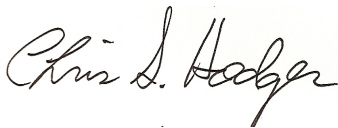
That truly blessed my heart. This is the reason I started Abiding Above Ministries seven years ago: **“To share the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person, to encourage spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.”**

Please pray for me as I travel later this month for my yearly board meeting with The Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute. It is an honor and privilege to serve on this board. Each year I watch in its entirety the series Dr. Rogers did before he passed away entitled, *“What Every Pastor Ought to Know.”* It is so good, and it reminds me of the blessing to have served with him in ministry.

Please pray for me as I prepare to lead a Men’s Retreat at Pickwick Lake in a few weeks. Pray that the teaching and power point presentations will be simple and clear in showing these men who they are in Christ Jesus.

Thank you for praying for me and supporting me. I could not do this without you. I pray for you each day that God will continue to bless you as you walk along with Him Who is your Life!

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges
President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3