



For God's Sake

“I, even I, am the One who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins” (Isaiah 43:25 NASB).

Ego—a person's sense of self-esteem or self-importance (Google Dictionary). We like to think we're important. We like to think we're special. Our childhood fantasies have us as the bravest or most beautiful, the admired, beloved, and cherished—appreciated by all. We all like to be the center of some sort of attention, and we like to think we are important enough to warrant people's notice. And while some people actually believe the world revolves around them, most at least *wish* it did. Self-importance is a tough problem for humanity and even Believers.

As Believers, we have a tendency to think God sent His Son to die for OUR sakes. We think that salvation is all about US. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16a),” after all, didn't He? We must be pretty important and valuable then, right?

On the contrary, it is for HIS OWN SAKE that He loves us, not because of anything we have merited. It is not because of how obedient we are, what we have accomplished in life, or how noble we are that He sent His only Son into the world to take its sin upon Himself.

Salvation (even the saving of our lives) is about God's glory—as a testament to His righteousness and mercy: “*Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God*” (Romans 15:7). It isn't about our glory. We didn't automatically deserve God's acceptance when we confessed our sins and repented of them. His acceptance

of us, saving our lives, is a gift for His name's sake—for His glory: “*For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it*” (Mark 8:35). Jesus is clearly saying here that salvation is about Him, not us, and John confirms this when he says, “*I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake*” (1 John 2:12).

This can be hard for us self-important creatures to swallow, but we aren't anything special. We aren't the proverbial kitten that gets a home because of how charming and cute we are. We need to let go our self-important bearing and realize with awe and wonder that we are the adopted children of God *despite* everything we are. In our ugliness, He loves us for His own sake. And what a love it is!

But what is the purpose of this salvation, if it is for His sake and not ours? “*For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh*” (2 Corinthians 4:11). It is through death to the world that the life of Jesus is manifest in our bodies, ultimately to be revealed in the resurrection of the dead. Currently, we suffer, not to atone for our sins but as vessels manifesting God's glory. Jesus is manifest to the world through His salvation working in our lives against the grain of all that the world sees as sense: “*For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake*” (Philippians 1:29). The world cannot understand this about us, but in the knowledge of eternity, this is the greatest blessing anyone could have in life here in the world. Let us then live this life for His name's sake—to His glory and Honor. Even so, Amen.