



SEEING YOURSELF THE WAY GOD SEES YOU

with Ron Acosta

▶ FOCUS VERSES

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139:14

▶ DISCUSSION

1. **Think back to your younger years: What was the worst, most hurtful thing someone said about you? (See *Proverbs 12:18*.)**
 - a. Did they say it to your face, or did you hear about it through a third party?
 - b. Was it someone whose opinion you could brush off, or was it a family member or authority figure whose opinion really mattered?
 - c. How long did that insult or criticism stay with you?
 - d. Did it cause you to do anything differently?
 - e. Did it prevent you from doing anything you really wanted to do?

2. **Thinking more broadly, how much did the opinion of others matter to you when you were younger? (See *1 Thessalonians 2:4*.)**
 - a. Did you brush off criticism easily, or did you take it personally and internalize it?



b. Did it continue to make an impact on you as you grew older and started a life of your own?

3. Would you describe yourself as a competitive person?

a. Are you good at working as part of a team and sharing credit, or do you feel the need to be the best at everything, to be the “winner” above everyone else?

b. If it’s the latter, where do you think that comes from?

c. Was there a situation or incident in your past that made you feel like anything but the highest achievement was unacceptable?

4. Discuss Ron’s story about reconnecting with his biological father in his 50s and eventually leading him to Christ.

a. If you had been in Ron’s position, do you think you would have pursued any kind of relationship with the father who abandoned you?

b. Was there something you would have needed from him before you forgave him?

5. Today as an adult, if someone criticizes or insults you in a truly vicious or personal way, how do you react to it? (See *Romans 12:19*.)

a. Does it cause you to feel real shame?

b. Do you find any comfort or reassurance in the fact that God sees you in a much different—and vastly more forgiving—light?

6. How would you describe your “work-life balance”? (See *Matthew 6:33*.)

a. Do you strive to put your spouse and family first, or are you more likely to devote time and attention to work?



- b. If it's the latter, why do you think you do that? Is it part of a generally competitive nature?
- c. Do you feel pressure to give your family the most comfortable and financially secure lifestyle you possibly can?

7. What did you think about Ron leaving his career as a vice president at Walmart to become the manager of a Chick-fil-A?

- a. Could you ever see yourself making a similar choice, given the life circumstances Ron was in at the time?
- b. Have you ever desired a slower-paced or less stressful career so that you could devote more time to family and ministry, as Ron has done?

8. In a few words, describe your leadership style.

- a. How closely is that style aligned with Ron's core principles of leadership—having a vision that informs the culture, surrounding yourself with people who know more than you, prioritize continued learning and development for yourself and others, be humble and don't let being a leader go to your head?
- b. Which of those principles do you think you hold to most firmly, and in which area do you think you fall short?

