

Just The Way
You Are

Annagail Lynes

"I chose you before I gave you life..."
- Jeremiah 1:5a.

I love you just the way you are. You are approved by me. I accept you with your faults, secrets and all. There is nothing you can do or say to make me take back my approval, my acceptance of you. You are good enough. You are smart enough. You are pretty enough. You are enough just the way you are.

You are special. You are unique. You have a purpose. You weren't born at this moment in time by accident. You are supposed to be here. You aren't dead because you still have an assignment to fulfill on this Earth. An assignment that God created you to fulfill. Only you have the right qualifications. Only you have the right talents. Only you can fulfill the assignment. Only you have been chosen for it.

No matter what you've done. No matter how you were raised. God and I still love you. We accept you. We still approve of you. You are still enough.

No matter the tears you've cried in the past. God's seen them all. No matter all the angry outbursts you've made. God's heard them all. No matter where you came from. No matter who your parents are. No matter what God still loves you. He still accepts you. He still approves of you.

Why? Because God sent His Son to die on the Cross for you. The wages of sin is death. But instead of letting you die for your own sins, He sent Jesus, His sinless Son, to die in your stead.

Once you accept what Jesus did for you on the Cross, when you accept Jesus as your Personal Lord and Saviour, you become adopted into God's family. The blood that Jesus shed on the Cross puts you in right standing with God. Not because of anything you did (except accept Christ) but because of what Jesus did for you.

No matter what you do. No matter what you say. You are still in right-standing with God because of Jesus' shed blood.

God accepts you. He approves of you. He loves you just the way you are. And I do too.

A Step Out Of God's Will

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"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

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All we ever have to be is what God made us to be. In junior and senior high school, I was a chameleon. A chameleon is an animal that changes color to blend in with his surroundings. I would do anything to fit in. One time in junior high, I had just transferred to a new school and ate several agonizing lunches alone, watching the other kids laughing with their friends. I was determined to make friends too.

I saw a girl crying across the playground. I went over to her and sat on the sidewalk next to her. I didn't say a word, afraid that she might yell at me or that I might say the wrong thing. When she noticed me, she started talking non-stop. "Do you like Duran Duran?" she asked me, cocking her head to the side. Finally stopping to let me answer.

Not missing a beat, I replied, "Yes, of course, I do." I didn't know who Duran Duran was any more than I knew the cure for cancer. Eva and I became instant friends. Later, though, when she found out the truth, I became her enemy.

God never called us to be anyone other than ourselves. In fact, I think that it grieves Him when we try to be someone we aren't, when we wish we could sing like Charlotte Church or preach like Billy Graham.

He designed us to have the exact personality traits, the exact talents and abilities necessary to fulfill the plan He has for our lives. By comparing ourselves to someone else and longing for what God gave them, we are really saying, "God, I know better than you."

Do we know better than God? I know, I don't. God expects me to be the best I can be. And He expects you to be the best you that you can be. Anything less would be a step out of His will.

Do You Feel Hopeless?

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"Call to me, and I will answer you; I will tell you wonderful and marvelous things that you know nothing about."
- Jeremiah 33:3.

Do you feel hopeless? You aren't, you know. I have felt hopeless many times. I have felt as if everything I do is wrong.

Why did God put me on this Earth? What was His thought process? His reasoning? His purpose?

Growing up in church, the only message I heard was Jesus is coming soon. Get ready, Jesus is coming soon, the preachers said every Sunday, every Wednesday, every time I attended a church service.

Being young, not even into high school, I thought to myself, I won't have time to grow up, get married, have children, have a life.

Why would God put me on this Earth and not allow me to experience anything? I felt hopeless.

Jesus is coming back. We are in the last days. These statements are both true.

But if we focus solely on these things, we will forget to do the one thing that is going to bring these events to pass: fulfilling our purpose.

You have a purpose for being on this Earth. No one gets a free pass to Earth without a God-given purpose. It is not to lay around and eat a couch potato or to party and drink your way through life. Your purpose is to further the Kingdom of God.

God has a specific plan for the way He wants each of us to do that. A plan that encompasses our unique talents, abilities and personalities while challenging us to get out of our comfort zone.

God told the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:5a, "I chose you before I gave you life..."

"This applies to you too because in Jeremiah 29:11, God further says, "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future-you hope for."