

## Dan's Devotion: High School Reunion

There is a new show on TV called "High School Reunion." It is one of the approximately 8000 reality shows on TV right now. They gathered a group of former high school classmates together for an extended reunion. I think it caught my eye because they graduated in 1987 and I graduated in 1988. (No old jokes allowed). The people that they brought in were from various groups at the school. They each had a label: the jock, the nerd, the pipsqueak, the bully, the popular girl, the spoiled girl etc... They even brought one guy in to confront the bully about a time that the bully beat him up when they were sophomores and how it impacted his whole high school career and beyond. The bully didn't even remember doing it, but he felt terrible about it now.

The interesting thing is that most of the high school roles kind of melted away over the past 20 years and the classmates have been able to get to know each other for who they really are and not who they were defined as in high school.

You might look back fondly on high school or you might think your high school years were the worst years of your life and you still have scars from that time. Past events can have a huge impact on us today, whether they are events from our childhood, high school, college, or adult years. Some of these events and labels may seem impossible to overcome.

But here's the great thing. When you are a follower of Christ, human labels don't matter at all. Your past melts away and you are defined as being a part of God's family. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17. No matter what has happened in your past. No matter what you have done or what people have done to you, God says you are a new creation if you are in Christ. You have the only label that really matters- Child of God. *"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"* I John 3:1. That's a label that lasts forever. Let's celebrate what we have in Christ.

God bless,

Dan