

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Do You Know Your Value?

Dear Friend,

How much are you worth to God? All too often it seems that people see themselves as worthless in God's sight and that is simply not the case. There are even groups that promote the idea that you are of no value to God, a mere worm in His sight. In fact, it's my understanding that many of them proclaim that we are just lucky that God doesn't squash us like a bug. It's no wonder people have difficulty receiving anything from God with that kind of messed up thinking. How could someone being taught that message ever believe God cared anything about them? All the while, the most popular verse continues to be one that highlights God's immeasurable love for us. (John 3:16)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

On one hand we are told of God's limitless love for us, while on the other hand we are said to be worthless in His sight. It's no wonder people are confused when it comes to what they believe about God loving them.

I believe you could safely say that our worth to God is directly proportionate to His love for us. If that is the case, then our value to Him is as immeasurable as His love is for us. That puts things in a little different perspective, but it only makes sense. Look at what Paul said about God's love for us. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height. (19) And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

I believe that much of the confusion surrounding our worth to God comes from not understanding this one basic truth about God and His undying love for us.

When we fail to know God's love for us it is easy to be confused about a host of other crucial aspects of our new birth. For example: a wrong understanding of who we are now that we are born again, continuing to identify with the old man, and maintaining a "sin consciousness" instead of a "righteousness consciousness." Counteracting these wrong ideas begins with accepting this one truth taught to us by John. (I John 4:19)

"We love Him because He first loved us."

In other words, before we will ever see ourselves as valuable in the Father's eyes, we must first understand God's motivation for sending Jesus to die in our place. His motive was the purest motive of all; love. Not a humanistic love that is based on emotions with an eye towards "what can I get out of this relationship?" God's love is free of any strings attached and no thought whatsoever of, "what's in it for me."

When we are convinced that God's motive for delivering us out of sin, by the death of Jesus on the cross, was born out of the pure motive of love for us, then it becomes easier to comprehend our true value to God. God wouldn't have sent Jesus to die for anyone that He did not value, particularly when such a high price was required for man's deliverance.

What makes it even more outstanding is that God wasn't looking at all of humanity and thinking, "If we add all of their individual values together then I can see that they barely add up to enough to qualify for Jesus dying in their place, but it is razor tight." That's not the case at all. In fact it's quite the opposite. **The life of Jesus was offered up for us individually. You are worth the value of the blood of Jesus.**

I know, that's almost impossible to believe, but nevertheless it is the truth. Each of us is worth the life of Jesus. Regardless of what family you were born into: rich, poor, royalty, peasant, in the eyes of God we each have the same value; the value of the blood of Jesus. In order for every man's value to be equal to God, God **could not** be a respecter of persons. Peter recognized this when he said, (Acts 10:34)

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:"

Since I am this brand new person I must refuse to identify with the old person I used to be, which is easier said than done. We can quote the verses that

declare; “I am the righteousness of God in Christ”, and all the while still identify with the unrighteousness of the “old man”.

How can this be? It’s important that we recognize that we are being helped by the enemy, often through the mouths of fellow believers, into accepting the lie that nothing has changed and we are the same people we were before. Often it’s our fellow Christians, who themselves refuse to accept their new identity in Christ, that are **easily offended** in anyone else who makes a stand for truth. They are generally the first to voice opposition to anyone declaring: “I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.”

Whether they come right out and say it or not, these are the thoughts going through the minds of well-meaning believers who hear such bold confessions: “Who does he think he is? I heard what he said just the other day when he let that curse word slip out of his mouth. He is no more the righteousness of God than I am.”

They base everything on what can be seen or heard instead of what God’s word declares. In their mind, every person’s value is established by their actions instead of the finished work of the cross. It’s this mentality that believes when we do good God is happy with us and we are righteous in His eyes. But, when we do bad our value drops, God no longer accepts us and we have no standing with Him. It’s as though we cease to be God’s child the instant we sin. Does a good parent look at a disobedient child and declare; “You don’t belong to me anymore!” **Of course not.**

Take the parable of the prodigal son for instance, the prodigal son’s choice to leave the father’s house and enjoy the sins of the world separated him from his father, but the father never stopped loving the son or looking for his return. The instant the son turned and headed home and came within sight of the father the father **ran** to greet him, fell on his neck and kissed him. Have you ever thought how the son must have smelled? He walked out of that hog trough with nothing and right into the father’s embrace. Where did we ever get the idea that when we fail we have to go through some kind of “proving time” before God will trust us again.

In the parable, the father instantly called for the best robe to be put on the son and a ring to be placed on his finger. (Luke 15:22) The robe represents all that the family stands for and this young man’s position in the family. The ring gives him access to the family’s fortune. The dad wasn’t waiting for the young son to prove himself through his actions or to earn his place back into the family. Nor was there any mention of needing to pay back the first inheritance that he had squandered.

You can't earn what is rightfully yours. As far as the father was concerned, the son's position in the family never changed even when his choices separated him from his father. All he had to do was to turn, repent, and fellowship with the father was instantly re-established. This is a great picture of what Paul called, "the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness." (Romans 5:17)

Our heavenly Father doesn't extend His love to us when we are doing right and immediately withhold His love the moment we make a mistake. What kind of messed up picture do we have of our Father? We make God's love for us to be like a light switch; on one minute and off the next. One minute: "Oh I love you so much my child, you are so important to Me." Then, a minute or a day or a week later, we fall to the flesh and in our minds we see our Father as though He is saying: "Well, that didn't take long did it you poor excuse for a child of God. This is going to cost you dearly. Once I feel like you have suffered enough then I'll welcome you back into the fold."

That's how the world operates, not our heavenly Father. **Your value to Him never changes. His love for you never changes.** The real issue isn't with God it's with you.

Can you believe your heavenly Father really loves you so much that He forgives you no matter what you have done and never remembers your sin or holds your sin against you for any reason, ever? Can you believe you are worth that much to Him? Can you believe that neither your good works nor your bad have any bearing whatsoever on your heavenly Father's love for you or the place that you hold in His family? Believing these things about our Father and His love for us will change our lives forever. Can you believe? All things are possible to him that believes. (Mark 9:23)

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins