

Valued By God – Made in His Image for a Holy Purpose | 7/1/18

- Introduction
 - We are continuing to look at how we are valued in the eyes of God
 - Last week we looked at how we are valued by God in that He has made us His children and we all have God as our heavenly Father.
 - This week we will examine our value by discussing what it means to be made in His image and the holy purpose He has for our lives.
- We are made in the image of God.
 - When we think about how we are valued by God, we can look at our creation to see God's perspective of us.
 - **God made each and every single one of us, and how He goes about it shows how we are valued.**
 - God chose to make us in His own image. Both in the image of God the Father and also the Son Jesus Christ.
 - Genesis 1:27
 - “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
 - Romans 8:29
 - “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
 - **God created many things** in this world, He created the universe, He created Earth, He created the plants, trees and animals. **Yet only for us did He choose to make in His image.**
 - This shows us that out of all of God's creation (which He greatly values), that He chose us to bestow His image.
 - **If we are made in His image, then what exactly does it mean?**
 - This of course leads us to then ask just “how” we are made in God's image.
 - We know a few things that it is not of course.
 - We were not given His exact physical attributes as we are certainly nothing compared to God as He is a spirit.
 - We are finite beings who live for a short time and pass away, we are not immortal.
 - We are not omnipotent (having unlimited power)
 - We are not immutable (unchanging)
 - We can sin (lie, cheat, disobey, selfishness)
 - **If not His physical or more “Godly” attributes, then to be made in His (and Christ's) image must then be to reflect His holy character.**
 - In the beginning when God created humanity (Adam and Eve) they were made with a holy character that had not ever know sin.
 - Their character at first very much resembled His image.
 - **They were holy and righteous and had not known sin, they were “upright”.**
 - **But God also gave that man and woman the ability to choose**, the ability to make a decision for themselves if they would live a life that was holy and righteous, to follow God's perfect moral character.
 - However, they chose to disobey God and allowed sin (original sin) to be bestowed upon all future generations.
 - Romans 5:19

- “For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”
 - **God created us to be upright (holy and righteous) but because of our sinful nature we have sin in our lives and that has to be dealt with.**
 - Ecclesiastes 7:29
 - “See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.
 - These schemes are the evil thoughts and actions that are not from God, but due to our sinful nature.
 - **But all is not lost**, because of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and our subsequent salvation by grace through faith, we put on our **new self** that **reflects His holy character** and begin to more closely reflect His image.
 - Colossians 3:10
 - “and have put on the **new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge **after the image of its creator.**”
 - Ephesians 4:24
 - “and to put on the **new self, created after the likeness of God** in true **righteousness and holiness.**”
 - **It is this righteousness and holiness that God desires us to reflect by being made in His image.**
 - **God values us so much that even though we have lived lives that are opposite to His perfect holy character, He still gives us the ability to share in this through salvation.**
 - He gave us a way to truly live out being made in His image, to live a life of righteousness and holiness that mirrors Christ.
 - Galatians 2:20
 - “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
 - **God values us so much that He wants us to share in His holy and righteous character.**
 - **Knowing that God created us and desires us to share in His image, to reflect His holy character, how does this demonstrate how you are valued by God?**
 - **What are practical examples that we perform today that reflect to others that we have been made in the image of God?**
- Our value to God is seen in how He is intimately involved in our design and creation.
 - We know that we were made in the image of God, not to share in his physical attributes but instead His holy character.
 - **The Scriptures also tell us that every part of us were wonderfully made. That God made us who we are for a great and wonderful purpose.**
 - Psalms 139:13-16a
 - For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, **for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.** Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance;”

- **This continues to show us just how valued we are in the eyes of God. God cares about every detail about us, from the physical to the spiritual.**
 - **If we didn't have any value to God He certainly would not be intimately involved in our creation.**
 - But instead we are told that He does, we are told that God values us and that he values life.
 - Luke 12:6-7
 - “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.
- **This also shows that even though we may view things about ourselves as “defects”, we know that they are not in the eyes of God.**
 - This is probably the hardest one for us to comprehend. We look at ourselves and others in the world and we can always find something that we would assume to be a “defect”.
 - **We have a human vision of what is “perfect”.**
 - This is because we have a human vision of what is “perfect” or good when it comes to our physical appearances which is a worldly view.
 - **Our human vision is not the same as God's, what He values and sees as good and perfect which certainly doesn't align with the world.**
 - **But to God He uses His creation which might be what the world views as weak and low, for His glory.**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
 - **“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”**
 - Just because the world may view you as weak and lowly or less than perfect, we find that to God we ARE PERFECT because we are just the way He made us.
- **What do you think about your value to God, knowing that He was involved in the creation of every aspect of you?**
- **Do you think God could have made a “mistake” when He created you?**
- We are valued by God and He shows us this in that He has a plan for our lives.
 - Another way that we see our value to God is that He has a plan for our lives.
 - **And this plan He decided upon even before we were born.**
 - Psalms 139:16b
 - “...in your book were written, **every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.**”
 - **What God desires for you to become, the plan for your life from beginning to end God has already planned.**
 - **Only someone that God cared for and valued would He do this.**
- **And along with a plan for your life He will also equip you so that you can fulfill it.**
 - God loves us and cares for us in that He will give us exactly what we need to be who He desires and to do the work He has called us to.
 - Hebrews 13:20-21

- “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **equip you with everything good that you may do his will**, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”
- Romans 8:28
 - “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”
- God will be there with us every step of the way so that we can do what he has called us to.
 - If He has called you to be a missionary, He will equip you.
 - If He has called you be a witness for Him to your family and community, He will equip you.
 - If He has called you to feed and clothe the poor and the needy, He will equip you.
 - If He has called you to be a pastor or to teach the Word of God to others, He will equip you.
- **If God has already planned out your purpose in life, and equipped you to fulfill this purpose, what value then are you to God?**