

## **The Value of Man**

### (The Nature of Man, Part 2)

- A. We don't know the exact value of man.
  - 1. The Bible doesn't communicate a precise value.
  - 2. As Christians, we know a lot more than the world knows; the world is utterly lost on this subject.
- B. Value is a relative thing.
  - 1. By "relative" I don't mean that it isn't the same for everyone. Though this may be true for some things, it is not true about man's value.
  - 2. I do mean that the value of something is always expressed in terms of its value *relative* to something else.
- C. Your view of man's value will affect your theology; and it will affect the way you behave.
  - 1. It will affect your view of morality.
    - a. Does man have a free will?
    - b. What is sin?
    - c. How valuable is man?
  - 2. Your concept of the value of man will affect how you think of and treat others.
  - 3. It will affect how you think of and treat God—we alone are in God's image.
  - 4. It will affect how you think of and treat yourself.
  - 5. It will affect your view of the doctrine of salvation—why God would seek to save man. For example, if man's value is derived from his righteousness, Jesus would not have chosen to die for sinners.
- D. Unbiblical Views of Man's Value
  - 1. Rationalism
    - a. Defined:
    - b. Optimistic Stream: Humanism  
Man is the most important thing.
      - i. Intuitive
      - ii. False – God is greater than man.
      - iii. It assumes that man is good.
    - c. Pessimistic Stream: Naturalism
      - i. Man is an animal.
      - ii. He has no free will.
      - iii. He has no significance.

d. With rationalism, you have to be *everything* (humanism) or *nothing* (naturalism).

## 2. Eastern Mysticism

a. It says, "Man is God," therefore he is of the highest importance.

b. This is the original lie, "you shall be like God, knowing good and evil."

c. You lose your identity by becoming part of the whole.

d. So, unlike rationalism, where you go to either extreme – that man is *everything*, or man is *nothing* – with Eastern mysticism, man is everything *and* man is nothing.

3. In the Biblical view, man can be a *something*, a significant something.

## E. Man Is Valuable

1. God created us intentionally.

a. We are not an accident.

b. We are not an emanation.

2. God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was *very good*. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31)

The rest he only said was "good." (Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, and 25)

3. Man is worth more than the whole world.

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

4. We have been created a little lower than God. (Psalm 8:4-6)

*See reference sheet for "Elohim."*

5. God's grief over man's sin shows the significance of our actions. (Genesis 6:5-6)

6. Man is part of history, God's plan, a drama, a love story. Contrast with modern man's view of man as a result of chance.

7. God moved throughout history to redeem man, in the covenant with Abraham, the exodus from Egypt, the giving of the law to Moses, in the crucifixion of Jesus.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

8. God has joy over man's redemption.

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who *for the joy set before Him* endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

(Hebrews 12:2)

9. We are important to the angels.

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—*things into which angels long to look*. (1 Peter 1:12)

10. We are more valuable than "many sparrows." (Matthew 6:26, Matthew 10:29–31)

11. And more valuable than a sheep!

And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." (Matthew 12:11-12)

The responsibility to treat someone right is based in their intrinsic value.

12. We remain valuable even after the fall, as sinners. We have value intrinsically, not as a result of what we do—"worthless" versus "unworthy;" metaphysics, not morals; we have not lost "the image of God."

The following points support this:

- a. Man is so valuable that the penalty used as a deterrent to killing him is capital punishment.  
"Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, *for in the image of God He made man.*" (Genesis 9:5-6)
- b. We are obligated to love others because of their intrinsic value; not because they love us or treat us well. (This includes God too.)  
"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' 'But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, *so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven;* for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:43-45)
- c. We are to speak rightly towards others because they are made in God's image.  
Speaking of the tongue, James said, "With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;" (James 3:9)
- d. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood *through what has been made*, so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)
  - i. What specifically has been clearly seen?
  - ii. Was this before or after the fall?
- e. An Objection Rebutted  
Romans 7:18 says, "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh;..."  
Paul explains that what he means by "flesh" is "sold in bondage" to sin. And he explains that believers are no longer "in the flesh." See "*Flesh*" *Defined section of References.*

13. The fact that God does not remove the consequences of our choices shows that we are valuable because our choices are significant.

## References (New American Standard Bible)

### Man Is Valuable

#### **Genesis 6:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD was *sorry* that He had made man on the earth, and He was *grieved* in His heart.

#### **Genesis 9:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.

<sup>6</sup>Whoever sheds man's blood,  
By man his blood shall be shed,  
For in the image of God  
He made man.

#### **Matthew 5:43-45**

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

#### **Matthew 6:26**

"Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

#### **Matthew 10:29–31**

<sup>29</sup>"Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

<sup>30</sup>"But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

<sup>31</sup>"So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

#### **Matthew 16:26**

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

### **Hebrews 12:1–3**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

<sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

### **Psalm 8:4-6**

<sup>4</sup>What is man that You take thought of him,  
And the son of man that You care for him?

<sup>5</sup>Yet You have made him *a little lower than God*,  
And You crown him with glory and majesty!

<sup>6</sup>You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;  
You have put all things under his feet,

### **1 Peter 1:12**

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

### **James 3:9**

With it [the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

## “Flesh” Defined

### **Colossians 2**

<sup>11</sup>and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

<sup>12</sup>having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

### **Romans 7:14**

For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, *sold into bondage to sin*.

**Romans 7:5**

For while we *were in the flesh*, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

**Romans 8:9**

However, *you are not in the flesh* but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.