



The Worth of the Individual

I. UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF WORTH

A. Definition of Worth

1. What does the phrase “worth of the individual” suggest to you?

2. Define the following related word using a dictionary.

- a. value
- b. worth
- c. cost
- d. potential

B. List some of the verses you know that describe the value God’s holds for His people.

C. Consider these words of R. C. Sproul. From his perspective on what does our value rest?

Man’s dignity rests in God who assigns an inestimable worth to every person. Man’s origin is not an accident, but a profoundly intelligent act by One who has eternal value; by One who stamps His own image on each person. God creates men and moves heaven and earth to redeem them when they fall. Our origin is in creation and our destiny is for redemption. Between these points every human heart beat has value.

II. OUR POSITION IN CHRIST

A. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

Genesis 1:26-27

What are indications that all men are created in the image of God?

B. How does the origin of man influence his sense of worth?

Isaiah 43:7

C. How does this verse suggest God's intentions for man even at creation?

Ephesians 2:10

D. How is God involved in creation today?

Psalm 139:13-16

Philippians 1:6

The Worth of the individual is based on:

»Our position in creation

»Our position as redeemed individuals in the Body of Christ

»Our position as redeemed individuals in the world

III. OUR POSITION AS REDEEMED INDIVIDUALS IN THE BODY

A. These parables speak of God's concern for seeking lost individuals. What do you learn about God's heart from them?

REFERENCES	ILLUSTRATION	PRINCIPLE
Luke 15:1-7		
Luke 15:8-10		
Luke 15:11-32		

B. The Cost of Our Redemption

1. What was the cost of salvation for one individual?

I Peter 1:18-19

Acts 20:28

John 3:16

Titus 2:14

In what ways does Christ's death communicate our worth?

2. Why is Christ's death on our behalf so remarkable?

Romans 5:6-8

For whom would you give up your life?

C. Membership in the Body of Christ

1. God chose Israel to be a people for His own possession. What do these verses communicate about God's relationship with His people today?

Deuteronomy 7:6-7

Deuteronomy 10:14-16

What is God's purpose for His people today?

I Peter 2:9

To whom does this passage refer?

2. Why is each individual important in the Body of Christ?

Romans 12:4-8

I Corinthians 12:14-21

3. What is significant about the relationship of a believer to God?

I John 3:1

Is a child's worth to his parents dependent on his abilities?

4. How intimately does God know us?

Matthew 10:29-31

Psalms 139:1-5

D. God's Commitment to Re-Creating Us

1. How is our image changing as God transforms us?

I Corinthians 15:48-49

I John 3:2

IV. OUR POSITION AS REDEEMED INDIVIDUALS IN THE WORLD

A. His Work Through Us

1. What is God's desire for those who are His?

II Timothy 2:21

2. What important responsibility has God given to His people?

II Corinthians 5:19-20

How does being given a responsibility communicate value?

3. How does God describe individuals in Isaiah 43:4?

What privilege has God given individuals?

4. Why are laborers so significant?

Matthew 9:37-38

5. The early church was a small band of men and women who impacted a large world. Observe how God multiplied the lives of these individuals in these verses from Acts.

Acts 2:41

Acts 4:4

Acts 5:14

Acts 6:7

Acts 9:31

Acts 11:19-21

What do these verses in Acts tell us about the potential of one individual?

6. What is the function of God's people in the world?

Philippians 2:15

B. Jesus Communication of Individual Value

1. Read each of the following passages carefully. Summarize the passage. Record the words of Jesus that communicated worth to each individual.

REFERENCE	SUMMARY	WORDS OF JESUS
John 4:7-30		
John 8:1-11		
Mark 11:46-52		

2. What underlying principles did Jesus minister from?

3. Consider the value of each of these people. In what did this value reside?

4. What value did the community attach to each of these people?

APPLICATION TO MY MINISTRY

List principles of the worth of the individual that you believe should shape your ministry. Note how each will impact what your ministry relationships and activities.