

How much am I worth?

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How much do you think you are worth? Do you see yourself as being valuable and precious, or do you believe that you are worthless?

Nearly everything in this world has a value. But have you ever noticed that what something is worth depends on who is setting the price? If I decide to sell something, I set it's price. However, if I was selling a property, and got a Real Estate agent to give me an appraisal, they might tell me the property was worth more or less than I thought. I could then get a Registered Valuer in, and they might give me a very different price again. You see, the value depends on who is setting the price. In the end though, something like real estate is worth what someone is prepared to pay for it!

If you open your wallet and find some cash in it, who decided how much that piece of paper is worth? The Reserve Bank did. The piece of paper that the note is printed on is actually worth very little. But the Reserve Bank determines that this piece of paper will be worth \$10 and this one will be worth \$20 and so on. Now, imagine I was sitting across the table from you, and took out of my wallet a crisp, new, \$20 bill. I extend my hand and say "Here, this is for you, if you want it." Would you want it? Of course you would! What if you were walking down a deserted street, and came across \$20 lying on the ground. Would you pick it up? Even if it was a bit dirty? Yep, I'm sure you would! But how about if someone walked past before you could reach for it, and without noticing, stepped on the bill with their big old boots. Would you still pick it up? How about if it was crumpled and wrinkled? Torn and dirty? I'm sure in all these situations, you would still pick up or take the money. Why? Because you recognize that, regardless of it's appearance or condition, the bill is still worth \$20, the price set for it by the Reserve Bank.

So, how much are YOU worth? Again, that depends on who is setting the price! The world sends all kinds of messages about worth. Advertising tells you you're only "good enough" if you have this, wear that, do the other. Parents, spouses and friends may all tell us how much we're worth - in their eyes. You can go to websites online that will "calculate your value" in dollars

and cents. One website I visited asks a whole string of questions about age, sex, height, weight, colouring, income, IQ etc etc, and then calculates what you are worth. The result I got was \$1,500,000.

Or, what if a scientist puts a value on you? One article, on a University of Indiana website, states "How much is a human body worth? When broken down into fluids, tissues and germ fighting our bodies are worth more than \$45 million." The article goes on to detail how they came to that figure. However, if you break the body down into it's mineral components etc: "When we total the monetary value of the elements in our bodies and the value of the average person's skin, we arrive at a net worth of \$4.50!" \$3.50 of that is the value of our skin.

If you ask an economist what you are worth, he will set about adding up your assets, savings and debts, and come up with your "net worth". Mine would be about \$70,000.

Hmmmm.....there are some widely differing figures! So what am I worth? \$45 million? \$1.5 million? \$70,000? or only \$4.50?? Who do we believe? To determine how much you are REALLY worth, we need to turn to the source of all truth, and the one who made us - God, and see what he has to say about it.

Turn with me to Genesis 1. Read through the chapter on your own, then look especially at verses 26, 27 and 31:

*"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.....God saw all that he had made, and it was very good...."*

Throughout Genesis 1, we see God creating the various parts of our world. At the end of each day he looks at what he has made and says it is good. But at the end of the 6th day, when God has made man and woman, he looks at what he has made and says that it is VERY good. ☺ In addition, God does not just make man to be another creature that lives upon the earth! He makes man to rule over all of the rest of the earth! Right from the beginning, God chose man and put him in charge, entrusting the rest of creation to the

dominion of man. The owner of a company does not chose a C.E.O and put him in charge unless he sees that the person is worthy of that position. God looks at us, and sees someone who has value and worth, who is "very good" and worthy enough to be put in charge of a part of His creation - our own little corner of the world.

John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Can you think of anyone on this earth for whom you would willingly give up the life of your child? I can't imagine doing that, can you? But God looks at us, and sees someone SO precious and valuable that he stepped down from heaven, took on the form of a human body with all it's limitations, and then willingly died a painful, humiliating death on the cross so that WE could live! He did that for YOU!

Romans 5:8 says "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." That means that even though we were spotted and wrinkled, dirty and torn, still God placed a high value on us, and for us Christ died. Just like that \$20 bill that was stepped on and dirty, but still worth \$20, God says that even if we have made mistakes, or have messed our lives up completely, that makes NO DIFFERENCE to our value in his eyes!! He still wants to pick us up, and hold us close. More than that, he makes us his children, and co-heirs with Christ to all that he has! [Our real "net worth" is the combined value of ALL that God has created (including gold, diamonds, planets, stars.....EVERYTHING!) and all that he is!]

Often, the more of something there is, the less it is worth. For example, if there are a lot of a particular gem available, then it's value is less than if it is rare. We share this planet with some 6.6 billion other people. That's a lot of people! Does the fact that there are so many of us make each one less valuable? Not in God's eyes! God created each and everyone of us unique and different. There is not one single other human being ever created who is exactly the same as you! God looks at each of individually and says we are incredibly valuable. He hand made us just how he wanted us. As he looks upon you, individually, he cannot see anyone more precious than YOU!

YOU ARE INCREDIBLY VALUABLE! You have great worth! ☺

So, why do some of us look at ourselves and see ourselves as worthless? Are we calling God a liar? Most of us know the truth in our heads that God says we are valuable, and that he cannot lie. But there is a difference between knowing the truth in our heads (recognition) and KNOWING it in our hearts (experiencing it). In my next article ("Internalizing the Truth"), I'm going to outline 4 steps we need to take to internalize the truth of our real worth.

Meanwhile, don't let the enemy tear you down or whisper that you are useless, worthless or rubbish! You are not! You are precious, valuable, loved, hand-made, and worth enough to die for!

Love
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