

CONNECTED

WHERE LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN



New International Version is used for questions

1. When the Bible says that we were created in the image of God, what does that mean? What then should be the practical result in our lives as a result of humans being in the image of God? What would be the result of believing that we are just a product of chance, of nature?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. How should what this verse says affect how you value yourself? How should this cause us to view what our culture and social media tell us about ourselves?
3. Read the following verses and explain how God sees you. Ephesians 1:3,4; 2:1-6; Philippians 3:9; 1 Peter 2:9; Luke 12:24; Romans 8:31-39. What does God use as the measuring stick to determine our value? What do you use as your measuring stick to determine if you are valuable as a person? What does our world use?
4. God tells us we are valuable and that our lives matter as human beings. What are some things going on in our society that show how the world has devalued a human life? How do we as Christians devalue people? Read Genesis 9:5,6, what did God institute based on the idea that a human life is valuable?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 3:5,6. What would happen if we began to truly believe that we are capable of becoming whatever God wants to make of us? What could we accomplish?
6. Luke 15:11-31 is the story of the prodigal son, read through it if people in your group are unfamiliar with it. What is the main point of this story? What mistakes from your past are causing you to believe that you are not worthy of God's love? Where does this idea that God would reject you because of mistakes you've made come from? Read 1 John 1:9. What should we do when we make mistakes? What does God then promise? If God forgives us, why is it so hard to forgive ourselves?

have an intellect, we can reason. We have a will, we can make choices, and we have emotions. Also, God is eternal and there is a part of us that is also eternal and will exist somewhere for eternity. The practical result should be that we realize that a human being has an immense intrinsic value, in other words we are valuable simply because we are like God in some ways. If we believed that we were just another animal that accidentally evolved, then we would have no intrinsic value and only have value based on our usefulness, what we could contribute to society. We would be of no more use than anything else in nature.

2. *This verse should cause you to realize that God values the part of you that is eternal, what is on the inside, the person you are. Your value is not based on what you do, but who you are. Our culture tells us we are only valuable based on what is on the outside, our appearance or our outward behavior, or what we possess.*
3. *These verses, when taken together, basically tell us that we are the most valuable thing to God in this entire universe that he created. We were so valuable and he wanted so badly to have a relationship with us that he was willing to pay the ultimate cost; he sent his own son to suffer so that he could have us. That is what God uses as the measuring stick for our value, we were worth his son. Our world uses all external measuring methods, our value is only determined by what we can produce.*
4. *Some of the things in our culture that show the devaluing of humanity are abortion, eugenics (the killing of old people), assisted suicide, pornography, slavery, when people disagree with a particular political viewpoint ,etc. We devalue people when they disagree with us and so we write them off or when we write people off who have done sinful things. You can say all kind of horrible things about people who are no longer seen as being human. The ultimate result of doing this is a willingness to kill people because they are not people anymore.*
5. *If we truly believed that we are capable to accomplish anything that God would want us to accomplish, we would turn this world upside down for Christ, like they did in the early church. If you truly believed that you are as valuable and able as God sees you, there is nothing you could not accomplish for God's kingdom.*
6. *The ultimate lesson of the prodigal son story is that God never gives up on one of his children, no one is ever so far gone that God cannot rescue and recover their life. The idea that a person is beyond help is from Satan, he is the one who wants us to believe we are beyond recovery. When we make mistakes God says if we confess them, he forgives and forgets. It is hard to forgive ourselves because we look at it from the human perspective that what you do is what makes you valuable, not who we are to God.*