

The Value of Every Person

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I. Introduction.

- A. Dignity is inherent nobility and worth.
- B. Value is relative worth, utility or purpose.
- C. We must ask who gets to determine value.

II. The basis of our identity is creation in the image of God. (Genesis 2:7)

- A. The soul of men and women is the very breath of God.
- B. God has bestowed on us His very dignity. (Psalm 8, Hebrews 2, I Corinthians 2:7-8)
- C. We have a unique capacity for relationship with God.
- D. The image of God is not removed in us through the Fall. (Genesis 9:6, I Corinthians 11:7, James 3:9)

III. The gospel heals all the effects of sin—one is given dignity through a new identity. (Isaiah 61:10)

- A. We must destroy the lens of victimization.
- B. God pursues all people showing their value. (Acts 17:26)

IV. What it looks like to show dignity towards all. (Luke 10)

- A. We are to give more honor to the less respectable parts of the body. (I Corinthians 12)
- B. We need to be aware of ethnocentricity.
- C. Categories where dignity and value can be expressed.

- 1. In how we plan.
- 2. In decision-making.
- 3. In delegation of responsibility.

D. Principles.

- 1. Inclusion. (Luke 15:10)
- 2. Honor.
- 3. Empathy and understanding.

4. Respect.

5. Contribution.

Application questions:

1. When have you seen the church neglect the value of some people?

2. When have you seen believers give special attention to those who have “less dignity?” What did you learn?

3. How can you personally reach out within your church to show that all people have special dignity? Explain.
