

The Value of Self

We are in a very corrupt time that is fueled by self-value - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - But **mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.** 2 **People will be** lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** Have nothing to do with them.

Satan uses self-value when he attacks - Gen 3:4-5-4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

We must recognize how dangerous we are to ourselves - Rom 7:14-25 - 14 We know that the law is spiritual; but **I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.** 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 **I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.** For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For **what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing.** 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. 21 So I find this law at work: **When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.** 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 **What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?** 25 Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Understand, “what I want” and “my achievements” have nothing to do with God’s will for me - Rom 9:16-21 - 16 **It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.** 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. 19 One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" 20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

We must be aware, that the world caters to self-value - 1 John 2:15-17 - 15 **Do not love the world or anything in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.

We must stay heavenly focused to remove worldly influence - Col 3:1-4 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For **you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.** 4 When **Christ, who is your life,** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Do not let how the world values man confuse how God values man - 1 Cor 1:26-31 - 26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 **It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus,** who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: **"Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."**

Man ignorantly thinks God has the same values they do - Luke 16:15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but **God knows your hearts.** **WHAT IS HIGHLY VALUED AMONG MEN IS DETESTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT.**

The more strengthened we are in self, the more we hinder God’s Power in us - 2 Cor 12:9-10 - 9 But he said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS."** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**

True Christians must reject self and everything about self to follow Christ –

Luke 14:25-27 - 25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — he cannot be my disciple." 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

To truly trust in God, we must STOP depending on self - Prov 3:5-7 - 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

We must consciously diminish the things we value, with the focus of our value ONLY being Christ - Phil 3:7-11 - 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.