

What Man Esteems God Detests

We must look to God, NOT MAN, on what to value and how to value it - 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."

We aspire to become great but do we know what it means to be great - Matt 20:20-28 - 20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." 22 "**YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE ASKING**," Jesus said to them. "**Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?**" "We can," they answered. 23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 **NOT SO WITH YOU**. **Instead, whoever wants to become great among you MUST BE YOUR SERVANT**, 27 and whoever wants to be first MUST BE YOUR SLAVE— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Know what God sees as the true strengths vs the worldly strengths - 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**."

- Foolish things OF THE WORLD
- Weak things OF THE WORLD
- Lowly things OF THIS WORLD
- Things THAT ARE NOT (Spiritual)

Those in low positions are really the top - James 1:9-11 - 9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. 10 But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

The most valued position we all should reach for is servant - 1 Cor 3:5-9 - 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? **Only servants**, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 **SO NEITHER HE WHO PLANTS NOR HE WHO WATERS IS ANYTHING**, but **ONLY GOD, WHO MAKES THINGS GROW**. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

For God to truly be Glorified through us, we must be out of the way - 2 Cor 12:7-10 - 7 **To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh**, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness**

The path to TRUE greatness

Humble yourself and live God purposed even when it doesn't look good

1 Peter 5:6-7 - 6 **Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, THAT HE MAY LIFT YOU UP IN DUE TIME**. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Gal 6:9-10 - 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 **Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers**.

We must remove all worldly wisdom to gain True wisdom - 1 Cor 3:18-19 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves**. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. 19 For the **wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight**. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness";

Recognize the source of true strength and embrace it - 2 Cor 12:7-10 - "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**.

Make your value system CHRIST ONLY and devalue everything else - 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.

In a nutshell we must fully succumb to God to truly recognize greatness - James 4:7-10 - 7 **Submit yourselves, then, to God**. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 **HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD, AND HE WILL LIFT YOU UP**.