

The Dignity and Value of Every Person

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Genesis 1.
- B. There is a picture of the dignity of man in creation.
- C. The souls of men and women are the very breath of God. (Genesis 2:7)
- D. Satan took our dignity because we are born under sin. (II Corinthians 2:4, Romans)

II. Our image and likeness.

- A. We have a unique dignity.
- B. We have a unique capacity for relationship with God. (Colossians 1:28, Romans 8:24-25)
- C. We can all trace our heritage to Adam and Eve. (Acts 17:26, Genesis 10)
- D. Sin messed us up, but it did not remove the image of God. (Genesis 9:6)
- E. God extends the blessing to all. (Genesis 12:23, Revelation 7:9-10)

III. In the kingdom, our value is determined in a different way—our value is not determined by our productivity. (Matthew 12:18-21, Isaiah 42)

- A. When we are saved, we are free from the penalty of sin but not necessarily the power. (Romans 6)
- B. We are still supposed to work out our salvation as the Lord works in us. (Philippians 2:13)
- C. The Lord imputes His righteousness upon us.
- D. Our position is right, but our condition must change. (II Corinthians 5:21)
- E. God changes our identity in salvation. (Isaiah 61:3)
- F. To work out our salvation...
 - 1. We must understand our identity.
 - 2. We must believe our identity.
 - 3. We must learn how to live out our identity.

IV. Practical ways to affirm dignity.

- A. Affirmation.
- B. Understanding.
- C. Contribution.
- D. Symbolic acts.
- E. Empowering.
- F. Owning one's influence. (Proverbs 18:21)

Application questions:

1. Why is having a sense of our dignity so important?

2. Which way of affirming dignity did you find to be most helpful? Explain.

3. How would you help someone struggling with a sense of his or her own self-worth? Be specific.
