

Do we have value?

1.) Apart from God – No

- John 15 – abiding in Christ
- Genesis 2:7 – created from nothing

2.) Because of God – Yes

- We're valuable because God values us
- God said that it was "good"

How do we value things now?

- According to their worth
- Matthew 10:29-31 – God uses this method also

This way of thinking is correct, but it creates a problem for us

God = infinite value

Everything else = finite value

To think of God in only comparative terms may not be the answer

As creatures, can we do anything infinitely?

Impossible Standard →

Constant failure →

Unending Guilt →

Frustration, depression → sin

Another way to view our relationship with God

1.) Exodus 20:1-3

2.) Mark 12:28-30

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 –

a.) Heart – Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26; Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 10:11

- New spirit, remove heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh

b.) Soul – “being” Genesis 2:7 – everything inside us (hunger, passions, thoughts, etc.)

c.) Strength or Might – Greek = “Power” Aramaic = “Wealth”

- It means all our resources – Deuteronomy 6:7-9

- It extends outside of us to those around us

Another way to view our relationship with God

- 1.) Exodus 20:1-3 – Love God Supremely
- 2.) Mark 12:28-31 – Love God Fully
- 3.) Love God Increasingly –

Philippians 1:19 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment

1 Thessalonians 3:12 - may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you

2 Thessalonians 1:3 - We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

Passages That Warn Us Not Love Creation Too Much

1 John 2:15-17 – Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

2 Timothy 4:10 – For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.

James 4:4 – You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Passages That Indicate We Should Only Love God

Psalm 27:4 – One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Psalm 73:25-26 – Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Passages That Indicate It's OK To Love Creation

1 Timothy 6:17 – As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty (conceited), nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 – So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

So how do we reconcile this? – 2 Approaches

1.) **Comparative Approach**

Isaiah 40:15-17 – Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

Philippians 3:7-9 – But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

So how do we reconcile this? – 2 Approaches

1.) **Comparative Approach** – Put God on scales

2.) **Integrated Approach**

a.) We love God Supremely

b.) Now we're free to love creation as creation (not an idol)

How do we do that?

Examples – Adam meeting Eve, Giving Christmas gifts, Vicki's Bang Bang Shrimp

c.) We don't set the gift and the giver in opposition to each other (scales)

The Bible teaches both, so how do we do both?

- Because the Bible repeatedly tells us to spend time in creation – think about (Adam), meditate (Psalm 104), “love your neighbor,” God wants us on Earth
- The majority of our time should be spent living the Integrated Approach
- The Comparative Approach is used as a test to make sure we love God Supremely (Do you put God at the top?)
 - Sometimes God will test you
 - Trials, tribulations, difficulties, tragedy, suffering, pruning (makes you stronger)
 - Sometimes you need to test yourself
 - Self-Denial
 - Examples – Fasting, sacrificial giving, doing without something and replacing it with God

I believe this is what happened in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:15-17

Genesis 3:1-6

Where Should We Set Our Minds?

Colossians 3:1-4

Colossians 3:5-6

“Set Your Mind” – Greek “Phroneo” – Orient your life by it, It guides you, Mindset

What does that look like?

Colossians 3

12 – Be patient and kind

13 – Bear with and forgive one another

14 – Love each other

15 – Seek peace and **be thankful**

16 – Learn, teach, and sing about the Lord to each other

17 – **Be thankful**

18 – Wives submit to husbands

19 – Husbands love your wives

20 – Children obey your parents (God likes it)

21 – Fathers love your kids

22-24 – Are you under authority? Work like you're serving God

4:1 – Are you in authority? Treat your workers right

2 – Pray and **be thankful**

3-4 – Pray for missionaries as they spread the gospel

5-6 – Show unbelievers how to live by living Godly lives, point them to Christ

A mind set on heavenly things, spends a lot of time thinking of the things on Earth

- family, neighbors, church, job, daily life...