

We Believe: Humans

Community Group Questions

1. What are some things about yourself that make you feel worthless?
2. What are some ways you have made others feel worthless? (in things you do and say)
3. How do you bring glory to God?
4. How do you practice enjoying God?

We covered article of faith 1 & 2 and technically 3 & 4 as well, so next we are going to deal with article of faith #5 in two parts...*Article #5 We believe that humans were created in the image of God.*

Today we learn as image bearers of God we have worth, others have worth and we have purpose.

Genesis 1:26-27 tells us that we are created in the **image** of God the theological term is *Imago Dei*. But why is this important to us?

As image bearers we learn... about our worth.

***Psalm 139:13-14** –God took the time to specifically make us and that communicates our worth no matter how we look.

Many times we can get off track because we start to believe the lie that how we look dictates our worth. So if we don't look picture perfect we start to focus in on all the features of ourselves that we do not like. So here is what happens we try work on our appearance and forget what is important to God. Don't get me wrong we should be a good steward of our body, eat right, exercise and get adequate sleep. But we should not become obsessed with how we look...listen to *1 Samuel 16:7 For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.*"

You may have some self-worth issues because of the way you look...but God is saying your heart is what matters, unfortunately people of all times fall into the trap of external appearances to validate their self worth...listen to what Peter said...

1 Peter 3:3-4 "Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious"

If your looking for self worth by working on your external appearance you are focusing on the wrong things. You realize you are fighting against the clock? You can work very hard on your appearance but the true work that needs to be done is in your heart...God is looking at your heart...and guess what other people can get a glimpse into our hearts , listen to what Jesus says in...

Luke 6:45 Jesus said "The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

We need to work on our hearts so that our words and actions follow. So how do we do that work? I believe much of that work is done in our interactions with other people...because...

As image bearers we learn... how to treat others.

There are passages in the Bible called "one another passages" one count states that there are roughly 60 "one another" passages in NT. These passages teach us how to deal with or treat "one another".

You may be thinking..."that's a lot of passages" and you right and we need a lot of guidance because we are complex and other people can be very difficult. People at work are difficult, in your family, your friends, in your church, on the road...Some of you have such a hard time with other people that you rather not be around people.

But remember it is "*not good for a man to be alone*" so if it is not good for a person to be alone it must be good to be together so the "one

another” passages are given to us so we can learn how to live together and experience the blessings of God through being around other people and when we apply the “one another” passages our hearts become soft and receptive and the work of the Lord happens.

God intends us to look at “one another” ...as His image bearers. This means Christians have to realize that each person has dignity, value and worth. The way we treat other humans communicates how we look at His creation and if we criticize or deal harshly with God’s image bearers, we are offending God Himself.

I want to sum the “one another” passages in two areas...

-What we say-***Ephesians 4:19** (expand)...Say things that help the one we are talking to and say things that benefit the people that listen

-What we do-Matthew 7:12 The Golden Rule...this is a basic thing that we teach our children but often we struggle with practicing this as adults

Think about this for a minute...*Someone once said...“how you make others feel about themselves, says a lot about you”*

In life we find that people who sin against others and make others feel bad, they themselves deep inside feel bad.

So if you are in rut and treating people badly in what you say or what you do you need to do some soul searching...you have to ask yourself some critical questions like

-Do I believe that I am an image bearer of God?

-Do I believe the people around me are image bearers of God?

And the final question is...What am I doing with my life?

Which brings us to the question of purpose...and our final point

As image bearers we learn...we have purpose.

What is our purpose? Or what is the purpose of all humans?

Our society has different definitions what our purpose is...
Generally speaking most people try to define what their purpose in life is.

Commonly we here things like...

Dalai Lama said "Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them."

Ralph Waldo Emerson said "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

Dos-toy-ev-sky said "The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for."

Eleanor Roosevelt said "The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."

There is not necessarily anything sinful or wrong about these statements but they all have one thing in common, they leave God out and He is the real starting point.

A problem arises if we do not start with God as our creator, the problem is a worldview problem the problem is a purpose problem, because whatever we declare our purpose in life is will ultimately be what we live for.

So what is our purpose?

The chief purpose of humans is to Glorify God and enjoy Him forever...

Isaiah 43:7 says that God created us for His glory.

Psalm 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

As a Christian our desire for the Lord should direct our purpose to glorify and enjoy Him

How do we bring Him glory?

-Trust Jesus GOSPEL

-Obeying Jesus in John 14:15 *Jesus said "If you love me obey my commands"*

-Work for Jesus Col 3:23 *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,*

How do we enjoy Him forever?

-Rejoice in Him by Seeing His hand in your life.

Phil 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always again I say rejoice"

No matter what happens good or bad in your life look to see how God is working and rejoice.

-Worship Him Spending time in worship with His people

I hope you look forward to being with God's people each week...

-Focus on our future with Him.

1 The 4:17 tells us that we will be with the Lord forever.

We will not only be with the Lord, we will be with all of His people forever and what we will be doing for eternity is glorifying and enjoying Him forever...

We believe as image bearers of God we have worth and purpose.