

Personal Reflection / Small Group Questions

Kickoff Questions:

- “You will never know who you are until you know who’s you are.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Do you feel you truly know who you are? How did you get to that place? Unpack it with the group.
- When you look in a mirror, what do you see?
- What do you tend to look to for your significance, your identity?
- What do you think it means to be made in the ‘image and likeness of God’?
- What difference does it make in your life to know you are created on purpose versus evolved by accident? Why do people have such a difficult time accepting that truth?
- How does knowing that all humans are made in God’s image impact how we should treat others? How does it affect our tendencies to think of certain people as inherently ‘better’ than others?
- Do we actually value all people equally? Think about some of the categories we so easily place people. Why do we do that? How can we change?
- Our North American culture tends to ascribe value to someone based on their functional contribution. Do you find yourselves categorizing people based on their external abilities? Explain.

Scripture:

- Read Genesis 1 – What does the account of creation reveal about man’s value and significance in God’s eyes? Focus on Genesis 1:26-27. Unpack the implications of that verse.
- Mark 12:29-31 – Jesus summarizes the two greatest commandments, love God and love your neighbor as yourself. How is the second half of that verse made easier by remembering that all people are made in the image of God and have inherent value because of that?
- Matthew 6:25-34 – Jesus talks about how valuable you are in God’s eyes, comparing you to the birds of the air and flowers of the field, and how God will take care of you. How does it make you feel to know you are valuable and cared for by God in this way?
- Matthew 12:9-12 – Where does Jesus place humans and animals on the value / worth scale? What should that tell us?
- James 3:9 & Genesis 9:6 speak of the need to be careful with how we treat people who are made in the image of God.
- Psalm 8:3-9 – how does it make you feel that God has made you “a little lower than the angels and the heavenly beings”? Is this passage meant to leave us encouraged or put us in our place?

Action Steps:

- **Action step #1** – When you come across someone this week who you find difficult to love (maybe within your family or a total stranger), remind yourself that they are made in the image of God, and are priceless and valuable in God’s eyes, and see if it makes a difference in your attitude
- **Action step #2** – Show some of our seniors the inherent value they hold by visiting them this week, listening to their stories, and telling them how much you appreciate them.
- **Action step #3** – Investigate the “victims of unborn crime” legislation, presented by Conservative MP Ken Epp. Do a Google search of that topic online. Find out where you stand and how you could let your voice be heard.
- **Action step #4** – Read up on the euthanasia debate (physician assisted suicide.) There is an article on www.willowparkchurch.com next to this weekend’s message, or do some searching online.
- **Action step #5** – Read “Fearfully & Wonderfully Made” or “In His Image” by Dr. Paul Brand & Philip Yancey