

PRICELESS: FINDING YOUR VALUE IN GOD



You are loved by God. You are priceless.

Remember those credit card commercials that went something like this?

- ▶ Two tickets to the big game: \$46.
- ▶ Two hot dogs, two popcorns, two sodas: \$27.
- ▶ One autographed baseball: \$50.
- ▶ Real conversation with your child: priceless.
- ▶ There are some things money can't buy.

I always liked those commercials. But they raise an interesting question: what gives something value? Think of a \$20 bill, for example. The Federal Mint doesn't use \$20 worth of ink to print a \$20 bill. They don't make it with \$20 worth of paper; in fact, the paper is the same type used in a \$1 bill. In the end, a \$20 bill is worth \$20 because the government says it is worth \$20.

In a similar way, your value as a human being is determined by God. Your worth is based on the fact that God created you, loves you, and gives you value. And unlike items that go up or down in worth and value based on the opinions of others, your value doesn't change. Because God isn't going to change His mind, we can know that the value He has assigned to us isn't going to change, either.

How can know you are highly valued by God? This study will examine seven things God has done for you that prove your worth to Him.

You are priceless.



Grant Ethridge

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FINDING YOUR VALUE IN GOD



Session 1 ***Adopted into God's Family*** 1 John 3:1-10



Session 2 ***Freed by God's Forgiveness*** John 8:2-11



Session 3 ***Saved by God's Son*** John 1:1-5,9-14



Session 4 ***Strengthened by God's Power*** Ephesians 3:14-21



Session 5 ***Equipped with God's Gifts*** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11



Session 6 ***Used in God's Service*** 1 Corinthians 12:12-16,21-22;
1 Peter 4:9-11



Session 7 ***Cherished in God's Eyes*** Psalm 8:1-8

SESSION 1

ADOPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY



*When have you felt like
you belonged?*

QUESTION #1
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THE POINT

*We are loved by God,
our perfect Father.*



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

My wife, Tammy, and I once visited an orphanage in Calcutta, India. We were taken aback by all the orphaned babies needing attention. I remember Tammy placing her hand on a screaming child and singing, “Jesus loves me, this I know...” Immediately, the child became perfectly still and silent. She locked eyes with Tammy. It was a God moment.

Several years later, our daughter and son-in-law became foster parents. Their first little boy, Jeremiah, taught each of us so much about God’s love. When the day came for him to go to his new home, we all shed tears. Jeremiah did not choose his earthly father; his father chose him.

Much in the same way, we’ve also been chosen by God the Father. He desires to adopt us into His family. We don’t need to remain as orphans, crying and hoping for the love and acceptance of a Father. Instead, we are loved by God and can receive from Him an immeasurable gift: adoption into His family.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1 John 3:1-10 (NIV)

1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

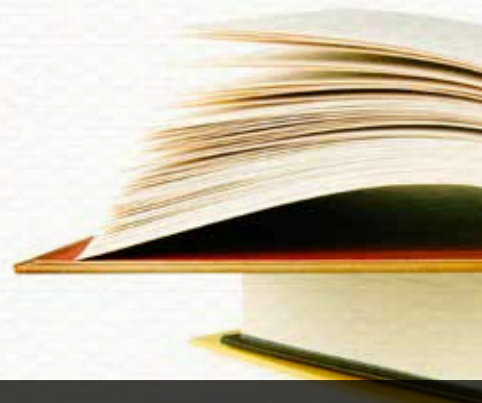
7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

Seed (v. 9)—“Seed” is the translation of a Greek term originally used to describe the literal seed of a plant; however, the term gradually acquired the poetic sense of anything that has the power to create or give life. This term was used as a synonym for words such as “family” and “descendants.” John’s reference to God’s seed may refer to the grace and power of the gospel, or to the new life placed in the believer by the Holy Spirit.



1 John 3:1-3

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us” (v. 1). This is no ordinary love! As we’ll see throughout this study, God’s love is unconditional, undeserved, unmerited, and unselfish.

As people, one of the hardest things for us to do is to love unconditionally. Even within families, our ability to love freely can be impacted by the hurts or disappointments we’ve experienced. Let’s be honest: it’s easier to love when that love is returned; our affection is conditional. But God isn’t like that. Regardless of what we’ve done, or even if we don’t love Him at all, He loves us.

Here’s more good news: your worth as a person isn’t based on your performance; it’s based on God’s love. You may feel unworthy of that love—and you are. But God makes you worthy.

In this world, people may disappoint you. Your spouse or family members may not appreciate you. Friends may forsake you. But God will never disappoint or abandon you (see Heb. 13:5). He is a friend to the friendless and a Father to the fatherless (see Ps. 68:5).

I love what John wrote in verse 2: “now we are children of God.” Satan doesn’t want you to remember that. One of the enemy’s greatest tools is doubt. If you’re unsure of who you are, you’ll be uncertain of where you should be and what you should be doing. But your salvation and security are grounded in who God is. As a Christian, you are a child of God. And growing as a Christian means becoming more like your Father every day. This process will be complete when you see Him face to face.

Therefore, don’t think God could never love you. You can never go so far that the love of God can’t reach you. You may feel like God couldn’t possibly love you because of your past sins or problems. Your present circumstances might make you feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. But that’s not true. Nothing can separate us from the love of God (see Rom. 8:38-39).

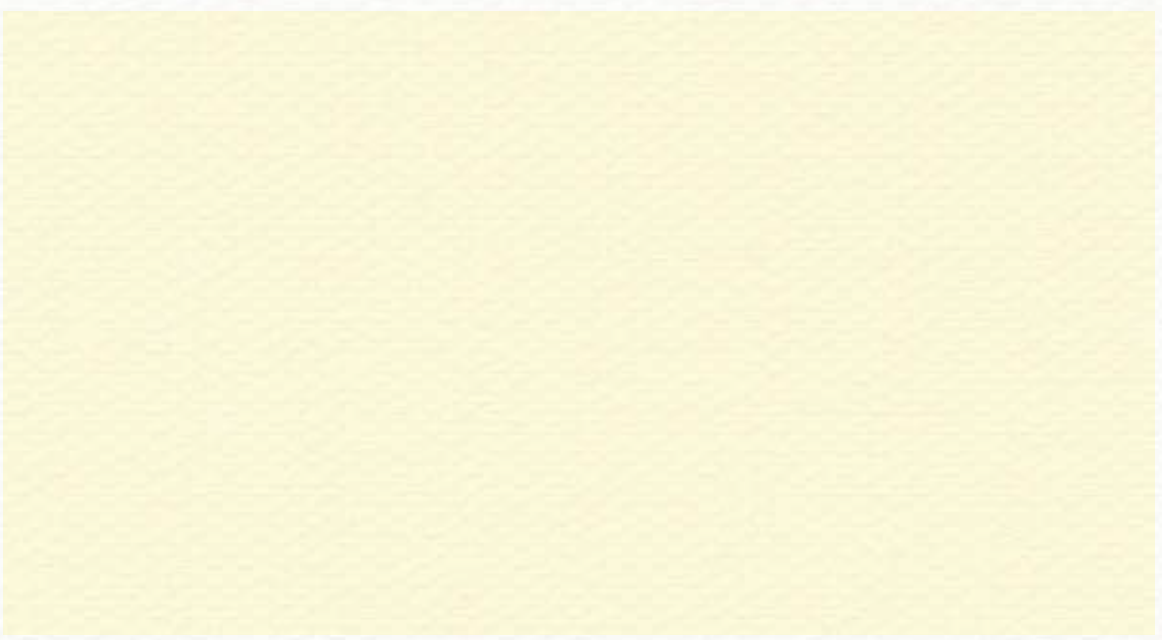
How should we respond to God’s love? The answer is simple: in light of His unconditional love, our only proper response is unconditional surrender to Him.

What about God’s love in this passage really captures your attention? Why?

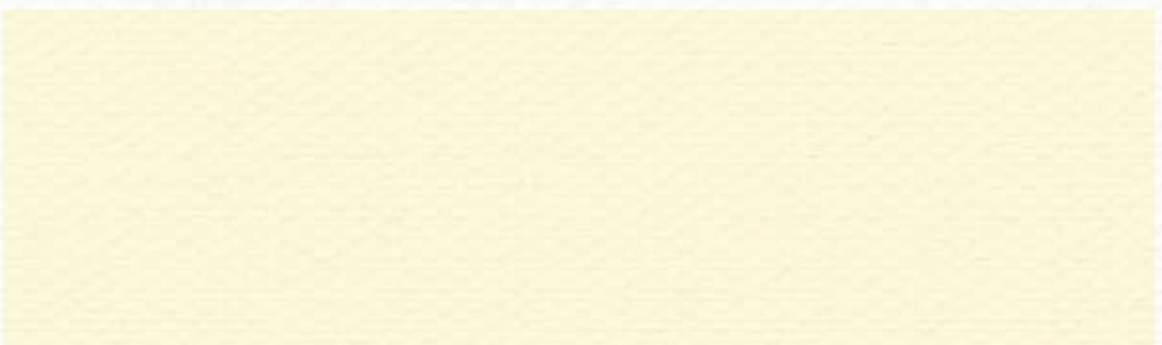
QUESTION #2

GOD OUR FATHER

Use the space below to record words, phrases, or images that come to mind when you think of the word "father."



How have you been blessed by approaching God as your heavenly Father?



Why do we tend to treat some sins lightly?

QUESTION #3**1 John 3:4-8**

Verse 6 can be surprising at first glance because all people—including all Christians—struggle with sin. So, was John saying that if I sin in any way, God has turned His back on me? That He has withdrawn His love and forgiveness?

In the original language, the phrase “keeps on sinning” (v. 6) is a present tense verb denoting continuous action. In other words, a child of God does not keep on committing habitual sin. A child of God cannot continue to live in sin and enjoy it, without any desire for repentance. God doesn’t let His children get by with their sin; rather, He convicts, warns, and disciplines His children in order to help them move forward (see Rev. 3:19).

Jesus lived the perfect life we could never live. He died the death we all deserve, which gave us life instead. It was the great exchange. He took our sin and gave us His righteousness.

Why did Jesus do this? Love.

Satan desires to steal our understanding, kill our joy, and destroy God’s purpose for our lives. The Devil seeks to devour us like a roaring lion (see 1 Pet. 5:8). Our enemy is actively fighting against us to discourage us, distract us, and distort the truth. No person is exempt from the temptations of the adversary. Even Jesus was tempted! If the Devil tempted the very Son of God, he certainly is not afraid to tempt you.

Feeling overwhelmed yet? Don’t. Remember the truth of verse 8: Jesus delivered us from the power of sin. The reason the Son of God came was to destroy this work of Satan in our lives. And that’s how we’re able to stand with Jesus and resist the temptation to sin (see Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9).

It’s all because of His love for us. For you.

What message of hope is found in these verses?

QUESTION #4

1 John 3:9-10

When you were born physically, you were born with a sinful nature. That means the most natural thing in the world for you to do was to sin. But when you're born again, you receive a new nature. A Christian is a new creation (see 2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus takes away your sin and the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life (see Rom. 8:9).

The word "remains" in verse 9 means your life in Christ is everlasting and cannot be reversed. Once you become God's child, you will always be His child. While we break fellowship with God when we sin, our relationship with Him cannot be broken. We have a permanent connection with the Father.

Still, nowhere in the Bible does it teach that you can walk down an aisle at church, pray a simple prayer, and then go live a life of sin. A tree is known by its fruit, and Christians are known by the way they live with Christ and for Christ. As Jesus said, we must "produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matt. 3:8).

Make no mistake, there are only two kinds of people in the world: children of God and children of the devil. Whose child are you? Verse 10 provides a litmus test for answering that question: love.

God is love (see 1 John 4:16), and we are to be like our Father. When we are adopted into God's family, we become more and more like Him. The more we experience and are filled with God's love, the more we will demonstrate that love in our lives. Showing love is a key sign of our connection with the Father. So don't be afraid to love out loud!



Is having a new nature from God more about obeying commands, showing love, or something else? Explain.

QUESTION #5

LIVE IT OUT

How will you respond to the reality of God's love? Consider the following suggestions in the days to come:

- ▶ **Embrace the love of Christ.** If you have not accepted Christ as Savior and Lord, there's no better time to be accepted into God's family. Talk to someone in your group or read the inside cover of this book.
- ▶ **Show love through words.** Watch for an opportunity this week to tell someone how he or she can experience the love of Christ. Choose to stand strong in the love of Christ, even in a culture that often opposes your faith in Him.
- ▶ **Show love through actions.** Let the love of God overflow out of your life and into the lives of others. Look for active, specific ways to demonstrate God's love to others.

Our world is filled with spiritual babies who need to experience the love of their Father—a love far greater than any of us can comprehend. How will you respond?

My thoughts

