

## INTRODUCTION

### I. Prioritizing Security

1. Social security:
  - (1) \$916 Billion
2. National security:
  - (1) \$635 Billion
3. Cyber security:
  - (1) \$90 Billion
4. Home security:
  - (1) \$20 Billion

### II. People Want To Feel Secure

1. Security is important to us:
  - (1) We spend a considerable amount of time thinking about it.
  - (2) Financially; for our children; relationships; even certain kinds of risk-taking are really wrapped up in our desire to feel secure when we are on the brink.
2. It is an idol (Matthew 4:5-6)
  - (1) And like all idols, it never lives up to the promises it makes.

## #1 - SECURITY IS ABOUT CONFIDENCE (v2-3)

### I. Security Illuminated

1. Confidence
  - (1) persuade; convince; urge; trust; obey; follow
  - (2) Urged to trust; persuaded to follow; convinced to obey

### II. Security Mutilated

1. Insecurity, or false security, conversely, is when confidence is misplaced.
  - (1) You have been urged, persuaded, convinced to believe something about yourself.
  - (2) In this case, it is a form of self-mutilation.
  - (3) Mutilate: to deprive of essential; irreparably damage
2. How we are affected by insecurity; false security (misplaced confidence)
  - (1) Mutilates Emotions

**JER. 2:36-37** | *How much you go about, changing your way! You shall be put to shame by Egypt as you were put to shame by Assyria. From it too you will come away with your hands on your head, for the Lord has rejected those in whom you trust...*

**GA. 5:19-21** | *Now the works of the flesh are evident...enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger...envy...and things like these.*



## (2) Mutilates Thoughts

**JA. 1:6-8a** | *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man...*

## (3) Mutilates Actions

**JA. 1:6-8** | *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

## (4) Mutilates Faith

**2 PE. 3:15-17** | *And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.*

3. People are often just mutilated, not deliberate.

(1) False narratives, disproportionate responses, assumptions, projections.

**#2 - CONFIDENCE IS ABOUT VALUE (v4-6)****I. Inflating Value****1. The Definition of Inflating Value**

(1) We all have a value system. Much of it is formed in us and highly subjective.

(2) A wrong appraisal of value, resulting in misplaced confidence (false sense of security)

**2. The Effects of Inflating Value**

(1) 75% of men and 85% of women polled; suffer from regular feelings of insecurity.

(2) Part of this reason for this, is the value system we've been given. And to help understand that, I'd like to take a brief stroll down memory lane.

(3) **Video:** Memory Lane

**3. The Reasons for Inflating Value**

(1) Barney struggles to raise his oversized purple head, weakened by the gradual loss of viewership in recent years. Once a formidable voice in children's TV programming, he now grasps weakly at his friends, who stand quietly beside. He manages to seize a fistful of Elmo's scruff and draws him close. "One thing you must never let a single child forget: 'You are special.'" The falsetto-voiced monster puts a furry hand on Barney's and turns to look at the others. All of them knew that a very important message had been entrusted to them.

(2) Of all moral lessons in children's TV programming, this was to be foundational. And if you notice, whenever kids shows step away from silly fun or situational problem solving and toward moral admonition, it is usually on this very topic: **the importance of a positive self-image and the confidence that should result from it.** And so, educational TV coaches us to think positively about everything from our hair color to our particular set of interests as the means of instilling confidence for living.



- (3) I am not advocating a low self image, of course. I am simply pointing out that insecurity seems to be the only thing appropriate for public correction. In fact, we could say that in the moral universe of children's programming, insecurity is the chief sin. Why?
- (4) Our cultural instructors disapprove of our insecurity because it is an offense to individual worthiness.
- (5) God disapproves of our insecurity **because it is an offense to his Son's worthiness.**
- (6) Insecurity is a form of pride

## II. Overestimating Ourselves

### 1. Overestimate One's People (v4-5)

- (1) Edward Welch wrote a book called "When People Are Big"
  - i. "Regarding other people, our problem is that we need them (for ourselves) more than we love them (for the glory of God)." 'Fear' in the biblical sense...includes being afraid of someone, but it extends to holding someone in awe, being controlled or mastered by people, worshipping other people, putting your trust in people, or needing people."
- (2) Edward Welch
  - i. "Jesus did not die to increase our self-esteem. Rather, Jesus died to bring glory to the Father by redeeming people from the curse of sin."

### 2. Overestimate One's Capacity (v6a)

**ISA. 40:28-30** | Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted...

### 3. Overestimate One's Ability (v6b)

**RO. 7:18** | ...For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

## #3 - VALUE IS ABOUT ACCOUNTING (v7-9a)

### I. Loss Is Gain

1. Anything you gain, is a loss, if Jesus is diminished. | Everything - Jesus = Nothing

### II. Gain Is Loss

1. Anything you lose, is a gain, if Jesus is exalted. | Nothing + Jesus = Everything

## CONCLUSION

### I. Reflection

1. Do I feel insecure?
  - (1) Consider your desire to feel secure; security is about confidence. What have you been placing your confidence in?
  - (2) And confidence is about value. Why and how did you give so much value to it?
  - (3) Value is about math. Is it possible you counted wrong somewhere along the way?