

**[Reminder about Rick's Books in the back of the Sanctuary]** AS we continue this series about at least 9 intrinsic needs that God has created us with. We will refer to them as soulish needs. This is a part of the bigger picture of God wanting us to experience *His Blessings, His Life, His Freedom* and *His Fullness*. God does not want us to live in a place of lack, but wants us to receive our inheritance, purchased and given to us by Jesus.

We know that we have physical and spiritual needs that if not met, lead to a cycle of fear, panic, death. Unmet physical needs lead to physical death. Unmet spiritual needs lead to spiritual death (Greek: separation and decay). Unmet soulish needs keep us in this same cycle of 'fear, panic and death.' The 9 intrinsic needs are: ***Identity, Purpose, Worth, Acceptance, Love, Intimacy, Security, Needed, Forgiveness***. Everyone in the world wants to know that they have worth or value.

As we unpack "Worth" in our series on Needs this morning, I want to remind you of something we covered in "Identity" and that is when the Devil tempted Jesus in the Wilderness. You'll remember that we talked about his 'Big 3' temptations, that all were an attack on Jesus' identity.

At the end of **Matthew 3**, we find John the Baptist baptizing his cousin Jesus in the Jordan and immediately after that at the beginning of **Matthew 4**, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. The focus of the 3 major temptations that we find in the Scriptures here all have to do with

Jesus' identity. *"If you are the Son of God..."* do this... Remember what God the Father said to Jesus after His baptism? *"This is my Beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased."* The enemy is attacking His identity! (**Proverbs 30:5**).

But this is not only an attack on Jesus' Identity, it is also an attack on His Worth. Remember, the Devil was trying to get Jesus to perform to achieve identity (*PBA: Performance Based Acceptance or Performance Based Identity: you must do in order to become*). But God wants the opposite for us: We 'do' out of who you already are. That encompasses worth as well as identity. The enemy wants us to perform to have value or worth as well. "If you do this, you will be important; if you do this, you will be valued."

But like Jesus, we must understand that we have value without performing. God the Father was pleased with Jesus, and He had not done a single miracle or even started His ministry. God was 'well pleased' with Jesus, simply because Jesus was. He already had value and worth. No performing needed. Knowing God values you, and you have worth just because you are you, frees you up from having to perform. We will see this again next week, when we cover 'Acceptance.' So, Worth is closely tied to Identity.

But many have an identity that makes them feel worthless. Many have no sense of real purpose or true purpose and that makes them feel worthless. Many people try to find worth/value in different things: relationships; jobs, careers and work; positions of authority or power; talent or what they can contribute; success or fame; and other areas that affirm on this earthly, horizontal level, that they are valued and have

worth. We/they need to understand that true value and worth are established by God.

***“Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.” -Matthew 10:29-31 (emphasis mine)***

***“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?” -Matthew 6:25, 26 (emphasis mine)***

Notice in both of these passages that Jesus talks about our value, he addresses the ‘fear, panic, death’ cycle: “Do not fear” and “do not be worried” (panic)... There are 3 ways we can know that we have worth and our worth comes directly from God:

1. He created us. We are His. We have a purpose and were made for His glory. Remember the old saying back in the day “God don’t make junk”? With everything God created, He declared “It is good.” He knit us together in our mother’s womb and knew us before we were even born.
2. He chose us. God factored in our rebellion, selfishness and stupidity and He chose us anyway. Jesus said, *“You did not choose me, but I chose you.” (John 15:16)*

3. He died for us. *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* (**Romans 5:8**). We were undeserving of everything that God did for us, does for us and everything that He gives us, but He gave it and gives it anyway.

How do you determine worth or value? By what someone is willing to pay for it. What are you worth? You are worth what God paid for you! Jesus just didn't pay your debt of sin (which He did), He redeemed and ransomed you! He bought YOU at a price; the highest price!

Once we have discovered our value and worth in God, then we can turn around and know how to value others. Fully accepting the love of God into our lives allows us to love Him and love our neighbors as ourselves: and part of loving ourselves is seeing our value and worth. Then we can see the value of our neighbors as well; not just the ones we like or agree with, but every person made in the image of God. Especially the value of those that are often unvalued by society and others: Homeless, Criminals, Prostitutes, etc. (those to whom Jesus ministered to); the unborn (Pregnancy Resource Center); the elderly, who are often forgotten or discarded towards the end of their lives.

Do you know how much you are worth this morning?