Gracestoration Update

CUPbearers inc.

"Restoring People in God's Grace and Making Disciplers"

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The Value of a Man...

In much of the world we now live in, the life of another has little value. In fact, apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ, one thinks little of taking the life of another in order to advance one's own agenda.

Over the centuries and up to this present day ethnic cleansing has been taking place where one people group overpowers another people group in order to completely eliminate the other. Many of these are religious and political wars (like the Nazis) by eliminating the Jews, demean **the value of a man**.

Ethnic cleansing is taking place currently in many areas today, like Somalia, Indonesia, Darfur and others. In these places religion and ideology trump **the value of a man**.

What is troubling is that many people and nations are deliberately ignoring these atrocities that devalue **the value of a man**.

Today, in our country, an unwanted pregnancy may be terminated through abortion. Or it may be aborted due to the possibility of the development of an imperfect fetus. The parents' comfort is more important than **the value of a man!**

The new healthcare czar has been known for promoting euthanasia, because caring for the health and physical needs of the elderly is too expensive and not cost-effective. He sees eliminating this burden of the ailing elderly on universal healthcare more fiscally sensible. This also illustrates the socialistic view of **the value of a man** – those who are no longer contributing to society must be eliminated.

The corporate world in its quest for profits and the bottom line often treat their employees as an expendable resource. **The value of a man** is dependent upon how one adds to the profitability of the company. Some businesses find ways to release older skilled workers before they qualify for retirement benefits, thereby depreciating the **value of a man** in order to save the ongoing retirement expense.

What Say The Scriptures?

The Scriptures have many examples of **the value of a man**. The Pharisees often put Jesus to the test at the expense of an unfortunate individual. *"He went into their synagogue. And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Him saying, 'Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?'—in order that they might accuse Him. And He said to them, 'What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more **valuable** then is a man than a sheep!"* (Matt. 12:9-12).

> ***"What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep!"***

A farmer would certainly rescue his valuable sheep from the pit on the Sabbath because his sheep might die unattended. However, the answer to Jesus' question was obvious -- **the value of a man** is greater than that of a sheep! *"Then He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand!' He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him"* (Matt. 12: 13-14). They valued their law and traditions more than Jesus or **the value of a man**!

God's **value of a man** was vividly demonstrated after man was hopelessly mired in sin, fear and despair, helpless and unable to deliver himself. God sent Jesus into the mire in order to provide salvation from sin [past, present and future], forgiveness and give full and abundant life.

We were like a sheep caught in a pit of sin and darkness without hope and dead in sin before Jesus came and rescued us. *"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)"* (Eph. 2:1-5).

This new life is His transforming life manifesting His perfect life in, through and with those who are born anew through faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary.

Transformation! The old man, and one's natural endowments, is superceded by the New Man -- Christ! Sinners became saints; the prideful, humble; murderers, peacemakers; the unloving, loving and the lazy, resourceful. Missionaries are sent to the ends of the earth because they understand **the value of a man**!

When we arrived in the Philippines in 1962 there were several tribal groups that were headhunters. The taking of a head was often part of the right of passage for boys from adolescence to adulthood.

However, headhunting was almost always done by ambushing the helpless victim. His only value was to advance the agenda of the killers through their cowardliness.

Five years later we flew over some of the mission stations of New Tribes Mission serving among five of these headhunting tribes. The gospel of Jesus Christ had transformed these murderers into contrite and peace-loving Christians **who valued the life of a man**. Headhunting was a thing of the past!



Tribal headhunter

Recently, as missionary Dell Schultze was leaving a tribal church after completing a teaching seminar, he heard four men strumming guitars as everyone joined in singing, "... **On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross. . .**"

It was said of the Ilongot Tribe that they changed in twenty years what usually took a civilization to change in five hundred! The only one thing that changed them was the **GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!**

The value of a husband and father in marriage and family cannot be over emphasized. God's design for a wife and children is for them to have a loving, caring Christian husband and father to shepherd them. *"Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her"* (Eph. 5:25).

Most men entering into marriage have no clue of how to be a husband or a father. His model has been the world's system where the wife and children support and serve him – not that he serves them.

He often thinks that his only purpose is to provide for them food, a place to live and financial security. Having done that he feels free to have his toys and pursue his own interests. However, his value to his family is far greater than that.

His family needs his physical presence with them; it gives them comfort. They need him as an engaged listener and sharer, demonstrating his involvement and interest in each of their lives. His prayers, protection and occasional discipline provide security for his family.

Man, don't say, *"This is too much to expect. I'm only human."* **Jesus came to be the man that God designed you to be.** The Apostle Paul confessed, *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"* (Phil. 4:13). Jesus said, *"Without Me you can do nothing"* (Jn. 15:5). John the Baptist confessed, *"He* (Jesus) *must increase... I must decrease"* (Jn. 3:30).