

The Importance of the Individual

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I. Introduction.

A. Topic: the importance of every individual.

B. Text: Romans 12:1-3.

C. Why the subject?

1. We do not have sober judgment towards ourselves.
2. We fluctuate from seeing ourselves as having too little worth to too great of worth.
3. Many feel worthless, useless and unimportant.
4. Many put a smile on their faces only to hide tears in their heart. (Proverbs 13:14)

D. These feelings come because we compare ourselves to others and regard ourselves from a human point of view. (2 Corinthians 5:16)

II. God's view.

A. God cares about individuals all throughout Scripture.

B. God the Father: every person is important because he is created in God's image. (Genesis 1:26-27)

1. This means that everyone is unique and has personality.
2. This means that everyone has the power of abstract thought.
3. This means everyone can choose matters of right and wrong—he has a moral faculty.
4. This means everyone has a spiritual nature unsatisfied until he is hooked into eternity.
5. This means everyone has free will.
6. A person is eternal unlike the things around him. (Luke 12:7)

C. God the Son: every person is important by virtue of what he cost.

1. Man cost God the best heaven had—God's only Son. (John 3:16, Galatians 2:20)
2. When Jesus came, He gave His life for the individual.
3. Man is twice God's—He made him and bought him.

D. The Holy Spirit: every person is important by virtue of what he can become. God can still transform you even when you are old. (John 1:42)

III. The consequence. (Romans 1:2)

A. We are to offer ourselves to God.

B. God does not want us to do His work for Him. We are channels, not reservoirs. We are to surrender our whole selves to Him.

C. Our surrender to God—the big Yes—is to continue throughout our entire lives. This is the great challenge of the Christian life—to keep surrendered.

IV. Conclusion: prayer.

Application questions

1. Why is it that every person has worth?

2. What is the consequence of understanding the worth we have before God? Why does one naturally follow the other?

3. Is God bringing you to a place of new or renewed surrender? Take some time for prayer and write down your reflections here.
