

“God demonstrated his love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans chapter 5 verse 8

It is important that we have an accurate evaluation of our value as people. Some live their lives feeling that they are of little or no use, others with an inflated sense of their own importance. It all depends on what we measure, or compare ourselves against. How do we get a true measure of our real worth?

If we are honest, we all know that we are imperfect. How do we know that? Because we all have an idea of a perfect being that we measure ourselves against. By definition, that must be God. When we measure ourselves against God, we fall far short, as the New Testament confirms, when it says “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Is that the end of it? Must we live all our lives under the knowledge that, according to the only true measure of worth, we are just not good enough?

Without a doubt, God's perfection presupposes that all his judgments are also perfect, and because of that all us imperfect people must come under his judgment. But God is also perfect in love and mercy. The bible assures us that “God is love”. Even his judgment is informed by love. Because of this, imperfect though we are, God has a love for us that is not conditional on our deserving it or earning it. It comes entirely from his infinite capacity for love, and his desire for us in our helpless state before him is to rescue us rather than judge us.

So the requirements of his justice are satisfied in the perfect, once and for all sacrifice of his Son Jesus on our behalf. There we see the true measure of our worth in God's eyes. That is the price of our redemption, the eternal proof of God's love for us. When we submit our lives to God's governance, care and guidance by faith in Jesus, we enter into a relationship with him that is forever defined by his continuing and unfailing love for us.

We cannot measure our worth against anything or anyone else without either coming up short or falling to pride. We can only live lives of true self worth when we define ourselves according to the love of God for us demonstrated by the death of Christ who gave himself for us when we were far from deserving of it.

Prayer

Father, there are so many things in this world and in me telling me what I need to be and to do in order for my life to be worthwhile and of value. The effort to live up to these demands and the anxiety that I might fall short is so exhausting and brings no lasting peace. Help me, please, to know deep in my heart that you love me with an everlasting, unchanging and unfailing love and that I can honestly measure my true worth in the light of that. In Jesus' name, amen.

All these devotionals can be found on our website inghamitechurch.org on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.