

# Doctrine of Man

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Human life is mysterious
- B. People are products of their parents and their environments but also of what they would like to be.
- C. Down inside there is a real you.
- D. Every individual is significant and precious.
- E. If we could see the worth of the individual soul, our ministry could approach the effectiveness of Jesus Christ's.
- F. Today the individual has been lost in the population explosion.
- G. There is something in a person that knows that there must be significance to life.

## II. The basic significance of the individual.

### A. The worth of the individual.

1. Every individual has inestimable value before God.
2. The reason everyone has value is because all are created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27-28)
3. The image of God is power of abstract thought, the ability to choose, emotion, feelings, etc. Man does not cease at death.
4. Man's sin alienated him from God, but God still found man worth redeeming.
5. Man is also meaningful because of sanctification - conforming man to His image. (Ephesians 4:24, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

### B. The possibility of being a channel of divine blessing.

1. Whereas the worth of the individual is absolute, this is relative.
2. It is conditioned upon yielded-ness.
3. Man was meant to be a channel of blessing to the whole creation from the beginning. (Genesis 1:28, Romans 8, Genesis 12)

4. God for His own reasons decided that He wanted to use man to spread His gospel.

5. God wants to use us, so He refines us and shapes us.

6. Our response towards people.

a. The real test for us to see the worth of an individual is when we are able to pick the one out of the crowd like Jesus did. Jesus recognized the touch of faith.

b. Our attitudes towards people can often restrict people. People do not have fixed potential. Even Jacob was changed.

c. We ought to trust God for people. This is one of the greatest acts of faith.

d. Everyone of us has an immense need to be trusted.

e. We must really get to know people beyond the externals.

III. Conclusion.

### **Application questions**

1. How is it that every human being has individual worth?

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2. What is the relative aspect of an individual's worth based upon? How can one "increase his stock" in this area?

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3. Why is it important to recognize the worth of others? Can you think of individuals whom you have struggled recognizing their value? What can you do this week to correct this view? Be specific.

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