

The Bulwark

7054 Winnetka Avenue, Winnetka, CA 91306 (818) 795-5566 www.winnetkachurchofchrist.com

Bruce Evans, Minister (818) 795-5566 e-mail: wbe@wolffenet.com

October 11, 2026

SEEING TRUE VALUE

It wasn't much to look at, in fact it had been out behind the garage for years upon years. Nevertheless, a father took his daughter by the hand the day after she turned eighteen and guided her along a pathway that led to the rusted vehicle. "Here's a car I bought many, many years ago. It's pretty old now. But before I give it to you, take it to the used car lot downtown and see how much they'll offer you for it." The daughter was dutiful and took the car down to the lot. Upon returning she said, "they offered me \$1,000 because they said it was pretty worn out." The father then said, "now take it to a pawn shop." Again the daughter did as she was directed. Upon returning the daughter said, "they only offered \$100 because it's an old car." Then the father asked her to take it to a car club. The daughter returned, somewhat giddy and said, "A club member offered \$100,000 because it's an iconic car and is sought by many collectors." Adjusting the cap on his head, the father looked at his daughter and said, "the right place values you the right way."



There are any number of take aways from that little story that made the rounds on the internet some time back. One of the most obvious is that it is imperative to look deeper. Which is exactly what God does and seen expressed in 1Samuel 16:7, *"Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* Samuel had set his eyes on Jesse's oldest son, Eliab. He met everything that Samuel thought was needed for him to be king. God corrected Samuel. Ultimately, the youngest son of Jesse was called in from the field and it was he that was anointed king. That young son, was David.

Peter, on his part sought to remind those in the first century of their value in the eyes of God predicated on the price that was paid wrote, *"knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."* (1Peter 1:18-19) The price paid to redeem us from sin speaks vol-

umes. Sin may have indeed left its mark on us, but the blood of Christ addresses all of that for the one who is willing to respond to the point of obedience to the gospel (see 1Peter 1:22-23)

Yet another take away can be seen with respect to the teaching found in 1Corinthians, chapter twelve. Paul is trying to express how each individual part of the body is ever so vital, *"we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many."* (vs 13-14) Then in verses fifteen through twenty-seven and he stresses that no member of the body (the church) can say to another, *"I have no need of you"*. Look at verses 22 and 23, *"it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness."* One's worth doesn't decrease based on how another sees them.

Awaken to exactly whose opinion we value, and in light of Romans 5:8 that should be more than self evident. *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* He has provided to us hope *"by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us"* (Hebrews 10:20) Therefore, *"let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith"* (Hebrews 10:22). In light of all that has been done for us, doesn't it stand to reason that the only One with whom we should be concerned about how we are seen is God? *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."* (Galatians 2:20)

You may not be "prized" or valued by those in the world. But the key is to be "prized" by our Heavenly Father. *"But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles?"* (Galatians 4:9) (wbe)