



Finding your self worth where it matters most

Every person on earth needs to know they matter, that they mean something to someone and that they are valuable. The problem is when people don't get a good start in life, they often waste their lives searching for self-worth in all the wrong places.

In the world, people base their value and importance on what they do, how much education they have, who they know, what kind of clothes they wear, how they look, their job title — and the list goes on.

But when worldly standards determine your sense of self-worth, you'll always be striving to please people and it will derail you from your

God-given destiny.

The only way to find true security and have a healthy self-esteem is by knowing and experiencing the love of God.

Popular with people or peaceful with yourself

The apostle Paul talked about this in Galatians 1:10 when he said, "Am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to please men?"

"If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be a bond servant of Christ" (AMPC).

He's basically saying, "If I were trying to be popular with people, I wouldn't be serving God and know that He loves me."

I can tell you that if I was trying to be popular with peo-

ple, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today. When God spoke to my heart about His call on my life to teach the Word and I began to step out in that ministry, some of my friends and family told me I shouldn't be doing that.

I was asked to leave the church we were attending at the time, and I ended up losing friendships that I thought were important to me.

It was a very difficult time, but I discovered through that experience that while it's not always easy to do what God calls us to do, obedience to Him is always worth it in the end. Doing things God's way is the only thing that works in the long run.

There are people in your life — I'm talking about people other than your spouse

and children — who may come and go over time, but God will always be with you because He loves you and He promises to never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

The value of God's love

The bottom line is you are valuable because God loves you and He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you. Your worth is not based on how you look, who you know, your title at work or any of the other superficial things the world considers impressive.

After Paul met Christ and became a born-again believer, he came to realize that everything else was rubbish compared to the priceless privilege of knowing God.

In Philippians 3:8 (AMP), he said, "I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have lost everything, and I consider it all garbage, so that I may gain Christ."

I'll say it again: The truth that God loves you is what makes you valuable. He created you because He loves you and wants to have a personal relationship with you.

He has wonderful plans and purposes for your life, and His love for you is unconditional — He loves you just as much on your worst day as He does on your best day.

No matter what your past is like, where you're from, what you've done, or where you are today, God is there for you and He loves you.

He loves us all the same, and He wants to meet us right where we are to heal our wounded souls and bring us out of the messes we're in — whether we've created them or they are the result of things others have done to us.

After the years of being abused by my father and abandoned by my mother,

who knew what he was doing but didn't have the courage to stand up to him, I was so messed up.

I felt worthless, guilty, damaged, used, condemned and terribly insecure. I tried to find my worth and value in many things, especially in work. And living this way just made me more miserable, angry and messed up.

It was so wonderful to discover that God loves me and to find the healing and restoration I desperately needed through my relationship with Him.

The truth is God is so much more important to us than any person in the world could ever be.

I want to encourage you to spend time seeking God in prayer and to study what the Bible says about who He is and how He loves you. Meditate on scriptures like Ephesians 1:4-5, Romans 8, Psalm 27:10 and Isaiah 38:17. Ask God to help you learn to receive His love and find your true worth in Him. He chose you on purpose, He wants you and He loves you.

There's nothing more valuable than that.

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Unitarians to talk about 'transcending mystery'

The Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller will lead the worship service this Sunday, July 24, from 10 to 11 a.m., at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Miller's talk is titled, "Direct Experience of Transcending Mystery."

Miller said, "Unitarian-Universalism is a living spiritual tradition, drawn from many sources — all of which affirm humanity's capacity to directly experience the forces which create and uphold life."

Miller will explore some of the ways that transcendent experience comes to people and how one can encourage it and benefit from it.

The UU Fellowship, at 87738 Highway 101, near Heceta Beach Road, is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuu.org or call 541-997-2840.

Spirituali-Tea to discuss laws of nature Monday

On Monday, July 25, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from varied spiritual paths to discuss the laws of nature and drink tea.

The Baha'i Writings say: "In the world of nature there are aggression, bloodthirstiness, oppression, struggle for existence, rapacity. These qualities are the natural laws of nature..."

The main goal of the Baha'i Faith will always center

around one ultimate aim, which is the peaceful unification of the entire human race.

The gathering will end at 8 p.m., with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

The Heintz home is located at 875 Seventh St.

For more information, call Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 541-590-0779.

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