



Refreshing Souls on Living Water

NOBLE MARITIME

Ministries

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The Value of Valuing Others

You and I are amazing ambassadors of the Kingdom of God, intended to positively influence our culture by being transmitters of His nature, but what if people won't give us an opening? What if dishonoring treatment and their past disappointments have caused them to erect protective walls around their hearts and develop defense strategies such as anger or an 'I'll-reject-you-before-you-can-reject-me' tactic?

Here is a strategy you may find helpful:

Don't think about loving people!

Start by replacing the over-used word *love* with the word *value*, the word *loving* with *highly valuing*.

We highly value God because He first placed high value on us (1 Jn 4:19). Highly value your neighbor as you value yourself. Husbands communicate high value to your wives as Christ highly valued the church and gave Himself up for her.

Benefits: If you convince someone they are highly valued, firstly, you are correctly displaying God's heart towards them (Rom 5:8). Secondly, it melts the walls built up around their heart to allow easier access for you and the Holy Spirit to administer Life to them. Communicating value to someone is like watering a potted plant with *Miracle Grow* fertilizer, making it possible for them to thrive by unlocking their seed of destiny. **Parents take note:** People that feel valued (and trusted) will not only want to be around you, but will value what you have to say. The opposite is also true -- if they aren't listening to you, try humbly asking, "have I dishonored you somehow?"

How do I do it? To be effective, begin by sensing how God thinks of them, and then agree verbally in prayer prior to meeting, e.g., "Yes Lord, I see that You value Pastor Bob and Mary so highly You were willing to be tortured and killed for them and that they are irreplaceable in Your kingdom. How can we say to their hearts, 'You are valuable and welcome!'"



Betsy and Julie enjoying the unexpected February snow!



Excerpt from a testimony of a recent retreat guest:

For all my life, I have struggled with issues of having no self-value and a deep sense of inadequacy. I don't ever remember feeling worthy of a friend or people's care. I constantly drove myself to work harder than I should have for everyone around me, and to take on their burdens as my own-the only way I felt any worth. I let my destructive patterns wear me down to where I was sick and resentful. I had been in counseling for ten years trying to solve this issue and had made some progress on a lot of fronts. I looked really functional and normal from the outside, but I still was ashamed of who I was and hiding the pain.

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Caring communications: Prior to their coming we have asked retreat guests if they have any food issues or strong dislikes. When they arrive, we try to greet them on the porch with, “Welcome! Can I help with your bags?”, rather than waiting for them to approach the house and ring the doorbell. **(On the other hand:** “Gee, where ya been? We were wondering if you’d ever show up?” is a rejection/devaluing message.)

Hospitality Examples:

While serving with Barnabas Family Ministries in the mid ‘90s, we watched the power of hospitality at work. In addition to the larger elements like a breathtaking view of ocean and snow-capped mountains, the small things, like mints on the pillows and garnish on the roasted red potatoes, all communicate high value to the guests. The Bentalls know how to express value through hospitality! See <http://www.barnabasfm.org/>

Your home and the environment you provide can be a huge launching pad in communicating honor to those the Lord sends across your path. What effective ways have you discovered to communicate value to another? Please share ideas with us!!

Neil and Crew~



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When I came to the retreat I wasn't sure how easy it would be to open up and share, but at every step of the process, I was made comfortable (a beautiful setting, wonderful food, an accepting environment, and graciousness). The focus of the prayer sessions was to invite and listen to the Holy Spirit. I felt more like I was sharing with God than anyone else. From my early memories, I found the lie and had taken on shame that wasn't mine. Neil guided me through the process of releasing that to God, and I have to admit, I wrestled with it. I didn't feel worthy for God to give me such grace; but through the prayer sessions, I was able let go of the hurt and see the truth of who God made me.

Since the retreat, the images of truth that God gave me have become even clearer in my mind, and Jesus has helped me start incorporating them into my spirit. My friends have even seen a difference in me, like a weight has been lifted. I know this is not an overnight process, but I'm on my journey to self-acceptance, which I know is not from within me, but a gift of hope from God.

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