

LESSON NOTES

A person's identity is directly linked to their sense of significance and personal worth. The higher your identity the more significant you are and the higher is your worth. There is no higher, more significant, identifier than "son of God", therefore there is no higher place of personal worth attainable to a human being.

Sonship is the immediate effect of the cross. The moment you are "born of God", you become a child of God. The matter of man's lost identity and significance is finished—i.e., restored! Sonship is the identity of our Higher Self, the new creation.

As it is written, "Dear friends, now we are **children of God**, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." ~ 1 John 3:2

Q. What are the practical implications of this change of identity?

1. SEARCHING FOR SIGNIFICANCE

- Read: Matt 20:20-28

Q. What was this mother maneuvering for?

Q. Why were the other disciples so "indignant"?

Significance is..." the extent to which you matter, are important & have personal worth and security." Significance implies a quality or character that marks a person or thing as important but that may not be self-evident or recognized.

In the beginning God created mankind to be significant because of their oneness with God. Their sense of security and well-being came from knowing who they were, and whose they were, in creation. Therefore, everyone is born with an innate need to matter, to be important and to have worth in this world. A person's mental and emotional health depends on it.

a. **Significance Lost**— Because man's significance was based on their unity with God, when that unity was broken their significance was lost. The consequence of the fall resulted in a "**significance vacuum**"—which means everyone born of Adam is born with the soul-need for more & more significance. It's the "emptiness" we try to fill with possessions, performance and pleasures.

b. The result is emotional insecurity, inferiority, and superiority complexes. People are inherently insecure, struggle with inferiority and superiority complexes in our search for greater personal significance.

- We strive to increase significance—We fight one another to take possession of the people and things we believe will increase our significance. We compete for positions, control, power and applause. Once we gain these, we fight to hold on for fear of losing them and losing the significance they provide us.

Q. What's the main problem with this way to significance and worth?

- NOTE: Did you know that the suicide rate is highest among people over 55? Why?

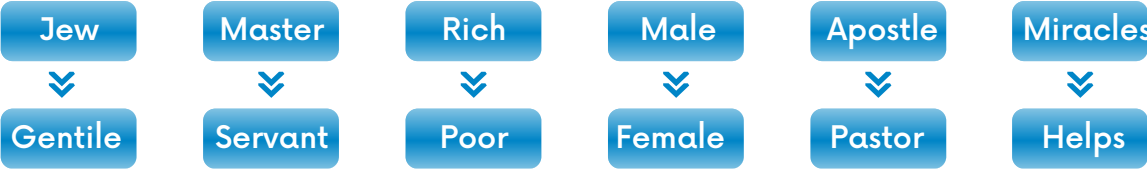
2. THE CULTURE OF THE WORLD IS A CULTURE OF INEQUALITY

- The "**Comparison Model**" of evaluation.

2 Cor.10:12—"We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."

(E.g.—Q. at pastor's meetings)

a. The world's value system is one of Higher & Lower identities & worth.



b. "**What**" based method measured by comparisons to one another—What race/colour; what title or position; what school & degree; what's your net worth what kind of car do you drive; what's your gender, and even what's your spiritual gift & ministry?

c. This culture produces both "**inferiority**" & "**superiority**" complexes. (Explain)

d. This culture creates the septic environment described in Ja 3:16—"where there is envy, jealousy,c & selfish ambition = disorder and every evil practice—(experienced in many of our churches!)

3. SONSHIP RESTORES THE KINGDOM CULTURE OF EQUALITY

- **Gal.3:26-28**—"...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- There is no amount of possessions, no earthly position or title, no amount of education or number of degrees, and no amount of social popularity, or acceptance and applause, that can possibly add a single ounce to your significance and worth as a son of God.

a. Significance by association

- Your significance and worth are determined by **who you are and whose you are.**
- **Pr 17:6**—"And the glory of children is their father.
- Children have little basis for significance, but the same need. So they gain their significance from the significance of their father.
- Story of Tobias.

In middle eastern cultures, when asked "Who are you?", a person would answer, "I am the son of _____." Note: Genealogy of Jesus—Lu.3:38—the son of_____

Note: The genealogy of Jesus, Lu.3:38—the son of...Seth, the son of **Adam, the son of God.**

Q. How does significance by association apply to you?

b. Jesus lived FROM Significance, not FOR it.

- Jn 13:3-5—"Jesus **knew** that the Father had put all things under his power, and **that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up** from the meal, **took off his outer clothing**, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin **and began to wash his disciples' feet...**"

Reflection: Q. How might Living FROM Significance change your life and ministry?