

Message: Week 3 of “Adjusting My Crown Series”, presented by Rev. Kristen Lowe on 07-24-2016 at Crossroads United Methodist Church, Waunakee, WI.

You are loved with a love you can't comprehend. God pursues us with a love so deep and so wide and so vast that nothing can come between God's love and us.

John 3:16

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

Ephesians 1:7-10

Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making.

He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

May God's eternal word work within our hearts. Amen.

Message: Week 3 of “Adjusting My Crown Series”



What would you pay for a used, smelly set of sneakers? Let's start the bidding.



Michael Jordan once poured in 38 points while terribly ill. The game would be forever called the Flu Game. These tennis shoes sold at auction for \$105,000.00!

Message: Week 3 of “Adjusting My Crown Series”

Think about the most valuable thing you own. What determines it's worth?

How much do you think you're worth? I'm not talking about your net worth;

I'm talking about your self-worth. Don't ever confuse your valuables with your value as a person. You can be rich or poor, but it has nothing to do with your value as a person.

Seriously... God says not only are you accepted; you're valuable.



What determines value? The past two weeks we've been going deep into our sacred worth... to realize that we need to see ourselves and others as God sees us, and also that we are royal heirs of eternal life. We are sons and daughters of the most-high God. He created us. We turned away, and he pursued us with his love to bring us back into relationship with him.

There are two things that determine value in life:

1 - It depends on what someone is willing to pay for it . How much is your house worth? Your house is worth what somebody is willing to pay for it. No more.

How much is a baseball card worth? To some of you, it's worth nothing. To some, it's worth a lot of money. Some people are willing to pay \$10,000 for a baseball card.

How much is a piece of art worth? Whatever someone is willing to pay for it.

Message: Week 3 of “Adjusting My Crown Series”

2 - It depends on who owned it in the past . Sometimes something is valuable because of who used to own it. For example, a pair of tennis shoes that I once wore wouldn't be as valuable as Michael Jordan's.

Based on these two things, what's your value? Ask yourself, 'Who owns me?' 'What was paid for me?' The Bible says, "You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him—be free now from all these earthly prides and fears." (1 Corinthians 7:23 TLB)

What do we get our worth from?

An accountant may get their worth from a balanced set of books. A teacher from the success of his students, a business person from making a profitable deal. You see how this goes. I got my self-worth for 23 years from radio ratings. I worked hard, the ratings, when they went my way, gave me self-worth. I admit I very often tried to earn value. Sometimes I still do. But then I need to get back into the word that tells me otherwise.

I had made the frustrating, tragic mistake of trying to find the kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace and joy in things and people and my own accomplishments. I didn't realize the kingdom of God is within us, as the apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 1:27. My joy—and my identity—had to be found in Christ alone.

You have been bought and paid for by Christ. You belong to Jesus. How much does that make you worth?

Message: Week 3 of “Adjusting My Crown Series”

Now, I can tell you that my own self-worth has changed from moment to moment.



As daughter

As student

As local celebrity - confidence turning to pride and conceit

As mom

As pastor

Now, we've talked about having sacred worth because we were created by the most-high God. We've talked about God coming in the form of Jesus to teach us how to live and bring us into a right relationship with God. All of these things determine value... but there's more...

Your crown has been bought and
paid for. All you have to do is put
it on your head.

- James Baldwin

Message: Week 3 of “Adjusting My Crown Series”

Now ask yourself, ‘Who do I belong to?’ The Bible says you belong to God. God came to us in human form through his son Jesus. He paid the price for you through his perfection! The Cross proves your value. You are incredibly valuable. Nobody has ever paid a greater price than God paid for you. You are acceptable and you are valuable!

Now, here’s what I want to make deeply known to you. No matter what you’ve done in your past, no matter how bad things have gotten, no matter the bumps or bruises; We have inexplicable worth not because of who we are or what we do... but because of who God is. We have this worth because the cross has made us flawless. We are justified through grace. We are redeemed by grace!



The Word says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV). But I had not yet taken hold of the “new creation reality.” I was living out of my own mind, will and emotions, which were all damaged. Jesus had paid the price for my total deliverance, but I had no idea how to receive His gracious gift. I was still in the bonds of trying to be perfect on my own. But I was considerably flawed.

The Bible teaches that God loves us perfectly or unconditionally. His perfect love is not based on our perfection, what we do, how we live our lives, or anything except Himself. He always loves us, but often we don’t receive His love because of guilt about our wrong behavior. We are supposed to be conscious and aware of God’s love and put faith in it. But I was unconscious and unaware of God’s love; therefore, I was not putting faith in His love for me.

It has been a process, but today I can honestly say I am healed and content. I know in my heart that God loves me—and I also love myself. My soapbox, in case you haven’t noticed, is that you and I have sacred worth. Our worth is in Jesus Christ. We are like Michael Jordan’s Shoes. Yes, God created us and yes, God loves us, but it’s not because of who we are or what we do or don’t do, it’s because of God’s great and active love for us that we wear sacredness. That we wear a crown of life.

Message: Week 3 of “Adjusting My Crown Series”



Saturate your mind with the truth of God’s Word. It’s filled with reminders of His unconditional love for you. He says you are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). He says that nothing can separate you from His love (Romans 8:35). Don’t let the enemy steal your identity. You are God’s masterpiece. Believe it!

Jesus paid the same price for every human being and every human being is just as loved and valued in the eyes of God. God is not a respecter of persons. Let us come to the Lord and receive our Life, value and worth from Him because in Him is life and the life is the light of all. You cannot be a light if you get your value and worth from some other source, like your works, title, degrees, status, etc. And, you also can’t shine that light if you refuse to accept the gift that God gives you. God offers to wipe away the wounds, the mistakes, the mess of our past and make us flawless through him. Could it possibly be that we simply can’t believe that this unconditional kind of love would be enough to take us... in all our shame and flaws, wipe us clean and place a crown upon our heads?

If you believe that you are more loved or valued by God than others, or less loved and valued by God than others, then your belief system is based on your works, not the finished work of the cross. To believe in Jesus means that you put your faith and trust in His work, not yours. God redeemed or purchased us, not because of what we are or what we are not. He purchased us because of who HE IS and He is love. He is the Savior of all creation, the Prince of peace, the King of kings... and you are his beloved and flawless child. Amen!