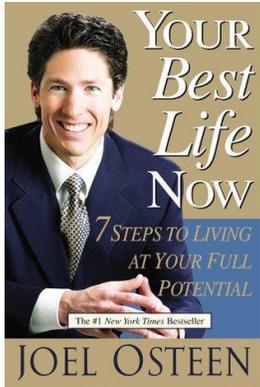


Finding value

The preachers of the 'modern gospel' (the false, contemporary gospel) are trying to grow their churches with a message that appeals to both our fallen nature as well as our flesh.

The books of such pastors (many of them pastors of mega churches) sell in the millions today. Those books proclaim a message which is appealing to the crowds but which is not found in the Bible.



Such pastors / authors are trying to build up our self-worth and our self-esteem by means of human psychology and not by spiritual truth.

One of Australia's biggest churches once had a visiting speaker. He preached a very motivational sermon that Sunday. Shortly afterwards he gave the exact same speech in a secular business meeting (of financial executives) where he very carefully avoided any mention of God and he never mentioned the name of Jesus.

Once human psychology replaces the work of the Spirit, a sermon may have a lot of appeal to large crowds of people but it will lack true spiritual substance. Such is the fallacy of the modern 'self-esteem cult' which has now entered the church.

Todd White, the American 'street healer' wrote about the cross that : "it is the price that's paid for something that determines it's value. God gave His son for you. Imagine how valuable you are".

On the surface this sounds like warm, cozy truth but once you have analyzed the essence of this statement you will realize that it is one massive, big lie.

It is nothing but another seduction from hell, one that places man in the center.

The truth is that humanly speaking a product is only worth as much as someone is willing to pay but this does in no way apply to the truth about the cross. It misses the very essence of the message of the cross altogether.

Once you fall for this lie you have missed the big picture, you have missed the essence of the message which the cross is proclaiming.

The cross does not present human value.

If we want to understand our value we must look into scripture and not focus on 1 single text, verse or chapter (chapter and verses are not part of the original scripture. They were added in at a much later date when the canon was already formed)

What does the cross really stand for?

The cross in its essence exposes 2 profound truths. Those 2 truths are the most basic truths of the Bible. Once you deviate from them (like so much of modern Pentecostalism has done and like all those Charlatans who promote the false prosperity gospel do in order to make money) you have lost the very essence of the message of the cross altogether.

The first truth is that the cross exposes us for who we really are.

The cross does not expose our self-worth (or self-esteem). The cross exposes our sin!
The leaders of the 'self-esteem' cult which is in such 'spiritual fashion' today never talk about sin. You can visit any of the mega churches anywhere in the world today and you will not hear any sermons on sin. Sin has become a very unfashionable topic today.

Joseph Prince, one of the greatest heretics of our time put it this way: Confession of sins for believers is about "being open" with God, not about repentance because we are already forgiven.

The false teachers and the heretics who have attracted such crowds will do anything in order to 'belittle' sin and avoid warning their listeners about God's judgment on sin.

The lie that: 'I must be worth something, that's why Jesus died on the cross' (the cross presents human value) is a welcome hook for them by which they can mislead even some Christians who don't know their Bibles.

The truth is, the cross does not expose our value, the cross exposes our sin!

If I don't want to face the sin in my life then such a lie will be a welcome sign of relief. But a lie is a lie!

This false belief that 'I must be worth something that's why Jesus died for me on the cross - the cross present's human value' will have the very opposite effect to what the cross actually tries to achieve.

The moment I believe that I am someone of great value (which is the reason why Jesus died for me), sin in the ugly form of pride will enter my heart.

Instead of dealing with sin, this false and misguided idea will actually give birth to sin in my heart. 'I must be important, that's why Jesus died for me' is the mother of all pride. This is the most prideful, the most arrogant and the most ungodly thought which could ever enter our heart. Nothing could be further from the truth than that lie.

A person who does not want to face sin in his life will gravitate to false statements like that. But it does not matter which famous Christian has uttered those words, such statements are nothing but lies which were invented in hell!

The cross has nothing to do with my self-worth nor does it reflect my value as a human.

The cross has everything to do with my sin!

The 2nd essential truth which the cross stands for is that it reveals the ultimate love, mercy and grace of God our father.

Jesus died because we were doomed to die; we were all walking on the road of eternal destruction!

The moment I take any value for myself for what had taken place on that cross I remove (and even deny) some of the glory which is reserved for God only.

The truth is that Jesus died despite me being worth nothing at all. The sobering truth of the cross is that I did not deserve his death, I did not deserve Jesus dying for my sins on the cross. Jesus death on the cross did not come about because I was of great worth and great value to God. The message of the cross proclaims that Jesus died for my sins because God had mercy on me. The cross starts with God. It was born in His heart, it was worked out in His mind and it was executed by Him.

The more I understand that the cross exposes my sins and proclaims God's undeserved grace, the more will I want to draw closer to Him, the more will I want to worship Him and the greater will be my desire to love Him forever. Also the more serious I will take the sins in my life! The moment I believe that the cross stands for my self-worth it will lessen the seriousness about the sins I commit. This false and misguided image of the cross will lead to a very unhealthy casual attitude towards my sin.

In the words of Joseph Prince: "We never truly stop sinning but God's okay with that".

This is one of the most serious lies which has ever been told from a pulpit during the last 2000 years! That thought was birthed in the ugly, sick mind of Satan himself.

The only person who could utter such an offensive lie is someone who has either never been born again (thus has no real conviction of sin) or whose heart has grown so dark that he can no longer discern the sins in his life (of which there must be many).

God is never o.k. with our sin. The cross exposes how seriously God takes our sin. The cross does not only stand for our salvation but it also exposes how serious God takes our sin.

The cross also reveals God's judgment on sin. On the cross the father did not spare His own son. Will He really spare anyone who has outrightly rejected His son?

People from other religions often ask why did God have to kill his own son for the sake of a few sins? (in particular Muslims cannot understand this since in the Quran Allah has cast all their sins upon a rock, the black stone which is located at the Kaaba in Mecca)

The more understanding you gain about the cross, the more you will understand the nature, the heart and the character of God.

Once you understand the true meaning of the cross a statement like: "You must be worth something that's why Jesus died on the cross for you" will sound like utter foolishness and even echo like blasphemy in both of your ears.

It is the cross which exposes the lies of the fake motivational preachers of today.

It is the message of the cross which makes them come undone with their lies and deceptions.

It is the cross which exposes the fact that we did not deserve such great love and forgiveness.

The more you recognize sin in your life, the more you will understand that you did not deserve God's love and affection (which was ultimately displayed in the form of a cross).

The moment you start to believe that Jesus had hung on that cross because of your value and self-worth to God you have in fact robbed Him of the full credit for all He has done. You will no longer be able to marvel at God's wonderful grace!

To believe that Jesus had hung on that cross and died in such pain and agony because we are worth something is not only wrong, it is in essence heresy for it denies the very truth which is behind the greatest moment which ever occurred on this earth!

THE SELF-ESTEEM CULT

'The Self-Esteem Cult that goes around saying that we've got to build up peoples SELF – ESTEEM is taking them the opposite way that the message of the Bible does, because the more you love yourself, the less likely you are in need of a savior.

Self-esteem is based on an unbiblical perspective. It is diametrically opposed to the truth of human depravity. Moreover, while Scripture commends self-control as a fruit of the Spirit, the Bible has nothing positive to say about:

SELF –ESTTEEM, SELF – LOVE or any other variety of SELF-CENTERDNESS (John Mearthur)