

## **Value Others More**

† **Philippians 2:3-4** *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.*

Others are more important than you? What a concept! If that is true, then why are all your first concerns and worries centered around self? Why are wealth or honor so important? Why do you get offended if you're ignored or passed over for an honor? Why are you so convinced it is all about you? Of course, the short answer is . . . sin.

Instead of listening to God's clear and perfect Word, the human heart wants only self-fulfilling gratification. Instead of recognizing the truth of everything God has told you, instead of believing he has only your best interests on mind, instead of waiting for him to take care of your true needs, your humanity prefers to rebel and think you know better, can make intelligent decisions, and have the right to do whatever you want. Sin makes you stupid. You are like Adam and Eve, thinking you can cover your spiritual nakedness by hiding from God.

Some even try to deny God exists, and carelessly pretend to be able to take care of everything to their own satisfaction in their own way. It's every man, every woman for himself and herself. Who cares about anyone but good old #1? Selfish ambition and vain conceit are natural and proper to the sinful nature. No one is exempt from the curse of sin.

Which is why Jesus came on the scene. In his great love, God sent his Son to pay the penalty sinners deserve. As the Holy Spirit works faith in the hearts of believers, he makes it possible for believers to find humility, and toss away selfishness and vain conceit. Live in him, with him, for him.

***Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.***