

I declare that only God can give us real value. The common thought patterns about value are not sufficient. Only the love of God makes us valuable. Realize that God loves you and sent Jesus for you.

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1. Introduction

Thanks for the invitation. I want to talk about value today.

What makes a person valuable? What makes you valuable? What do you think?

This is a very important question. Everybody thinks about this question. At least in Germany, where I come from. Am I only being worth something when I'm young, or pretty, or strong? Am I valuable when I'm old, too? Can I do something for my value? Or can I do nothing at all? I asked myself: What makes me valuable? It's a tricky question. It is my success as a pastor, or as a father? Is it my money in my pocket? Is it my health? A few years ago I was very ill. I had to get in a hospital. The doctors didn't know what to do? Was I worthless in this bad situation? We need an answer to these questions! It's bad when people feel worthless. And I think that people have many answers to this question.

2. Common opinions about value

Some people think people are valuable when they're ...

- **fame:** Who is a famous singer in Myanmar? Or a famous actor or celebrity? Is he or she worthier than you? And if so, why? Because he's on TV or the internet? Because everyone talks about him? If fame makes people valuable, then we have a problem. Because most people aren't famous. It doesn't work!

Some people think people are valuable when they ...

- **do a lot of good things:** They help others. They work very hard. They do a lot of good things. They are the best in school or at the university. This is great. But does that make them more valuable than others? I don't think so. Maybe you got four kids to take care of. Nobody sees it. Maybe you are ill. You can't do a lot of things. Or maybe you are not so smart. You can't go to an university. No, to do a lot of things is okay, but it doesn't make you valuable.

Some people think people are valuable if they ...

- **have a lot of money:** A pocket full of money. The best mobile phone. Maybe an own house or a big car. A very expensive watch. Good clothes. Good food. Money makes you valuable. And happy. I don't think so. You can't buy love with money. You can't buy trust. You can't buy respect. And if you die, you can't take your money with you. No. Money doesn't make you valuable.

Some people think people are valuable if they ...

- **are beautiful.** If you are beautiful you have many advantages. You can invest in your beauty. Unfortunately, beauty fade. And not everyone is beauty. Look, this is my beautiful daughter Cim. But is she valuable because she's beautiful? No, she is valuable, because I love her. And I would love her, even she had a very big nose or just one arm. Because she is my daughter.

Some people think people are valuable because ...

- **of their body:** This is crazy. You can sell your liver or kidney or heart. You're gonna get a lot of money for this. Maybe you got 150.000 US Dollar. But you are dead, too. That's not a good way? If we sell the material of our body, we get – maybe 8.500 Kyat. Our body consist of Water, a little iron and if we die, all that remains is dust. No, our body doesn't make us valuable.

Maybe there are more solutions for value in your country. These are all solutions people from Germany have. Maybe people in Myanmar have their own solutions.

Dear church. Fame, doing good things, money, beauty and our bodies are important and great. They are gifts from our creator. But they don't make us valuable. We can't believe that.

For all these things we have to do something. We must work very hard to become famous. We must work very hard to make a good career. We have to invest in our beauty ... and so on. It's stressful.

3. What makes valuable?

I claim today: We need another solution for our value. We need a sustainable solution. A solution that helps even after our death. We all have to die. A great man of the Old Testament, called Mose, tells us (Ps 90:12):

„Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.“

Value has to come from outside.

This is a 5 € bill. You could buy a lot of things with 5 € in Germany. But why. Is just paper. It's just a small piece of paper. The material is worth nothing. But somebody from outside, from above had said: This is a 5€

bill. You can buy food with this bill. Do you understand. Because someone from outside or from above said: This paper has a value about 5 € I can buy food. It was the boss of the European bank.

Also, people need a solution for value. From outside. We need a sustainable solution for our value. I think, it must be something that comes from the outside. Not because I do it. Not because of something I earn. It must something independent of me.

Maybe like a little new born baby. It can do nothing. It costs money, sleep and strength. It doesn't do anything. Just crying, sleeping and – sorry – shitting. But a normal mother would do everything for her baby. Why? Because a mother loves her baby. Love is the answer. Love makes us valuable. Value is given. Value is awarded.

4. Only God can give you real value

Who makes you valuable? Who says: You are valuable? I love you! The bible told us: God, the creator of the world, the father of Jesus Christ, makes us valuable. He loves us. He wants us. He came in this world to show us his love.

The bible says in **John 3:16f**:

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

How can we explain that? I would like to tell you a story, a parable. Do you know ants? Ants live in Germany often in woods. They live in a big hill, an ant hill. Imagine a very rich building company buy the wood. The company wants to build houses on the property. Big machines arrive at the wood. Workers cut down the trees. And the ant hill is still there. The ants live and work as they always do. One day the chief of the company discovers the anthill. He stands before the anthill and shouts to the ants. Go away! We will build houses here. He shouts louder. But the ants can't understand the chief. So, the chief asked himself what to do. He decides to become an ant, too. As an ant he goes into the anthill and tell the king of the ants that they have to leave. It's a crazy parable.

But God did this. He became a man. In Jesus Christus. He sent Jesus on the earth to live and act like normal people. Jesus followers wrote all the stories about Jesus in a book, called bible. So, we could read the bible today. And the bible told us: God wants us. God loves us. God saves us. God gives us value.

You are valuable, because God loves you! Jesus loves you! He came for you. He died for you. He rose from the grave for you. He will come back for you and his church. Because he loves us.

5. Realize that God loves you

Dear Church. This is a very important message. And this is why I came from Germany. I want to tell you that. We want to tell you that. We want to support and encourage brother K. and his friends.

God told us to go to the end of the earth to tell people about the love of God. Here we are. Okay, this is not the end of the earth, but it's far away from Germany.

Please realize, that Jesus loves you. He makes you valuable. Please come to God. He wants to forgive your sins. The bible told us (**Romans 10:13**): "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. I asked you (**Hebr 3:15**): "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts ...".

Amen