

ESSENTIALS
Matthew 18:10-14

Jesus is continuing to provide essential truths about how people should properly live together in Christian community. He makes the comment that we are not to despise each other. The positive corollary to that point is that that we are to value each other.

What are some ways that people in churches “despise” each other?

What are some practical ways that people in a church show they value each other?

Are there ways that you could be more purposeful in valuing other people within your church?

Can you still value others in a church even if you do not know everyone in the church?

The reason we are to value others is because God values us.

What does it mean when we say that God “values” us?

How, if at all, does the fact that God values us impact how we see ourselves?

Jesus used a story to convey the point that God cares for and values us. Read the story Jesus told in Matthew 18:12-14. In this story, the shepherd represents God.

As a group, discuss the story and draw some observations. What do you see? What has happened? How do people respond? What do people not do? Is there a cause and effect?

What are some things the story teaches us about God?

How can some of those truths about God impact or affect our daily lives?