



Key Phrase #4

EVERY SINGLE PERSON WAS CREATED BY GOD

From the very beginning of Scripture we are made aware that each of us were strategically created by God for life, love & purpose. He doesn't mince words. Right at the creation of the world we see that people are intrinsically valuable- not because of what they had to offer, or accomplished or because of choices made or not made, but simply because God made the sovereign choice to bring them to life. Think about it, just to be born is evidence of God declaring you good. He made all of us with deep value, whether we recognize it or not.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Gen 1:27

"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.." Col. 1:16

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb." Ps 139:13

I think for the most part we understand that about ourselves. Even if we struggle with it at times when we look in the mirror or mess up a relationship, we know deep down that God made us for a reason and that His unconditional love is always present.

The more difficult pill to swallow is that every single person we come in contact with has the same Creator. Every single person we see was made with value & purpose and has a God who longs to know them intimately. This includes the annoying co-worker who takes coffee but never makes it, the parent that screams incessantly at their kid in your ear on the bleachers and the homeless man who you try not to make eye-contact with on the side of the expressway. Not only did God create them, but He sent His Son to die for them. He loves them.

ALL OF THEM.

Every Single One.

So how does this change our everyday perception? Let's take a look at what scripture says:

"...the Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.." 1 Timothy 2:1-6

We know that people can be difficult to love. People can be selfish, uncompassionate, inconsiderate and sometimes truly evil. Humanity stepping away from true communion with God takes an ugly form.

But God knows that, too. He loved us when we were uninterested, unconsolable and truly unloveable.

He never became disinterested in us. And truth be told, if we are called to be His ambassadors- his light and salt- then we need to make sure that we don't become disinterested in the very people God is trying to call to Himself. The widow. The orphan. The needy. The prideful. The insecure. The wasteful. The drunkard. The know-it-all. The annoying. The hopeless. The refugee. The disgusting. The over-indulged. The rich. The bully. The oppressed. The oppressors. The churched. The unchurched. The neighbor. The relative. The boss. The waitress. The principal. The cast-away.
Each and every one.

So how does this change our everyday interactions?

I don't know about you, but for me, it changes just about everything.

Closing my eyes and ears just means I've closed my heart.

The very heart that God gave me that should look more like His every day.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

1 John 4:7-12

Discussion Outline

- Review the Key Phrase
- Take time to ponder, pray, and answer the following questions.
 - If I really believed this (key phrase) how would it change my life?
 - In what ways am I walking in this truth and in what ways do I struggle?
 - What tensions would this solve? What tensions may it create?
 - Find a Scripture or Biblical Principle that reflects this truth.
- Write down any thoughts you need to change and any steps you can take to walk in this truth?
- Pray for one another.

Additional Questions to spark some thoughts:

We are all created in God's image (Imago Dei), which means we are “a visible and understandable representation of who God is and what He's like.” How has God opened your eyes to see that in your own life?

When was a time in your life where someone showed you God's love in a way that changed your perspective of Him?

What kind of people are the hardest people for you to love? The most difficult to see through God's eyes?

When you look at your life, who are the people that you come into contact with each day that you are confident God has placed there for you to display God's love to? What strategic ways have you walked in love? How can you help them to see God's love for them more clearly?

