



IF AN ALIEN WANTED TO UNDERSTAND US, WHAT 2 THINGS WOULD YOU SAY ABOUT THE HUMAN RACE?

We are a mess of deep unconscious drives? - Sigmund Freud (1920s)

We are basically programmable rats? - B.F. Skinner (1950s)

Our natural state is pure but civilization wrecks it? - J.J. Rousseau (1780s)

Humans are nice and great at sharing? - Karl Marks (1860s)

Let's be honest, we are basically selfish? - Ayn Rand (1930s)

Solitary, poor, nasty, brutish? - Thomas Hobbes (1650s)

No child was ever born that did not sin. - Sumerian Proverb (3000BC)

Two Biblical things: 1. Our Value. 2. Our Condition.

Do not confuse these two - our value does not change with our condition.

1. OUR VALUE IS ALWAYS INFINITE

We are the most beautiful, mysterious, valuable thing on the planet. We are all infinitely valuable - no one of us more than another! When God makes things he calls them "TOV" (good), but when humans are made he says it is "TOV MEOD" - very good!

You are made in the mystical image of God. The mystery of thought, language, poetry, and the universe sits in you. So no matter what your condition, your value never changes.

No matter what your condition, no matter how low you go, your value will not change. You will never cease to be loved by God.

The world confuses value and condition. It treats human beings like objects or things when it assumes that our value changes if our condition changes. But the Bible does not speak that way! So if the Bible says your condition is corrupt, or guilty, or lost, it is never questioning your value. God loves you no less because of any faults.

2. OUR CONDITION IS NOT GOOD

We view the vulnerable and ethnic minorities as less than human.

- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 2015.

At four years old we already enjoy seeing others suffer.

- British Journal of Developmental Psychology, 2013.

We would rather electrocute ourselves than spend time in our own thoughts.

- Science, 2014. Psychiatry Research (Journal), 2016

We are vain and overconfident. - The British Psychological Society, 2014.

We are all potential trolls. - Stanford & Cornell Uni, 2017

More at: British Psychological Society "10 Psychology Findings That Reveal The Worst Of Human Nature" www.digest.bps.org.uk/2018/10/12

There is no one that does not sin... - 1 Kings 8:46.

Surely there is no righteous human on earth who does good and never sins. - Ecclesiastes 7:20.

The human heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt, who can understand it?

- Jeremiah 17:9.

None is righteous, no not one! - Romans 3:1.

The idea of sin is the most honest picture of human nature. It's not saying we are totally evil, but fallen from our original beautiful good design and that we cannot reach God on our own in any way.

From birth we are without fear of God, without trust of God and with concupiscence (a desire to serve ourselves not others). This disease or original fault is truly sin and condemns us... We reject... those who say that human beings can be saved by their own powers or reason.

- The Augsburg Confession, Article II. 1530AD.

The enemy held fast my will and made it a chain... Out of my fallen will came lust, and lust became habit, and habit became necessity. These were my chains... I had read how "the flesh lusts against the Spirit"... I discovered I had willingly come to be what I unwillingly found myself to be.

- Saint Augustine, Enchiridion, chapter 5. 430AD.

Scripture describes humanity as so curved in upon itself that we use not only physical but even spiritual things for our own purposes and in all things seeks only ourselves.

- Martin Luther's Works, vol. 25, p. 345

The wisest people face the darkness within themselves. Facing it makes them humble and beautiful, because those who admit they are sinners receive God's love. The love of God is so amazing because even in our fallen condition God loves us and values us enough to die for us!

3. WE NEED HELP FROM THE OUTSIDE

Mrs Knobel had created hell for herself. She had wrapped herself up in herself and all she knew was her own desire and suffering. Hell is a place where you are truly the centre of your own universe. Nothing from outside could get in to her. But my friend Ruth was like Jesus. She never gave up on that angry old lady. She never stopped knocking and inviting. Even though Mrs Knobel's condition was not good, Ruth knew her value was always infinite. Mrs Knobel became again a beautiful, welcoming, happy, renewed person. She was saved from sinking into herself by someone from outside!

Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with them, and they with me." - Revelation 3:20