



Sunday Blast

April 30, 2023

"Christian Aspects of Human Dignity"

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:13-14, NIV).

Have you heard of Kay Warren?

Many people have heard about her husband pastor Rick Warren, co-founder of the Saddleback Church (a "mega church"). But few people know Kay's story. She struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts for many years, but, in time, she found hope and healing through her Christian faith. She now advocates for mental health awareness and encourages others to seek help and support when struggling with mental health issues, sharing her story of redemption and hope as a source of encouragement and inspiration. She is one of many people who have reclaimed their human dignity, rediscovered their human worth, and found purpose through their Christian faith. You can read more about Kay Warren's story and support for mental health at her website:

<https://kaywarren.com/mentalhealth/>

Understanding Dignity

The secular world talks a lot about dignity. Common definitions, which often don't agree, usually go like this:

At its most basic, the concept of human dignity is the belief that all people hold a special value that's tied solely to their humanity. It has nothing to do with their class, race, gender, religion, abilities, or any other factor other than them being human. ["Human Rights Careers" magazine]

Last week I made the claim that the word "dignity" was too small to encompass the full aspect of dignity, and, in fact, I believe dignity is affected by all those things the definition above says are irrelevant. Our life experiences can vouch for that.

We can agree that dignity to a Christian is rooted in something uniquely human. Last week we reflected on this basic statement of human nature: *"Then God said, 'Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness' ... So God created humans in his image."* [Genesis 1:26-27] Our realization that we are created in the image of God is the starting point for living into our dignity as Christians, truly becoming children of God.

Look at how David, the psalmist, proclaimed his realization of being made in the image of God: *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*

Indeed we are wonderfully made. The image of God in us allows us to reflect God's character and purpose.



The Three Aspects of Our Dignity as Children of God

In a world where dignity and self-worth are often linked to success, power, and status, it can be challenging for Christians to find true dignity – becoming children of God. However, we can understand it from three aspects: one, being made in the image of God; two being redeemed by Christ's sacrifice on the cross; and three, through the learning and practice of Jesus' teachings. We will be exploring these more in the next several weeks.

Prayer box: let us pray for healing – Robin, Lynn, Mark, Gloria, Lucy, Joyce, Andy; let us pray for comfort for those who mourn.