

Worth of the Individual

"There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."
Luke 15:7

The Judeo-Christian religion stands in sharp contrast with all other religions in regards to the worth of the individual. Created in the image of God and redeemed at the price of the Son of God, **people are eternal and therefore of infinite worth.** "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"¹ No other religion in the world views people from this perspective.

Jesus did not die for institutions, but for people. Programs, organizations, causes--all are temporal. **Never use people to further institutional goals; use institutions to help invest in people.** You will find it easy to become enamored with your own program or cause, and recruit others to make it a success. **The work of the Lord is not building institutions, but redeeming people. People and the Word of God last forever.** Immerse yourself in Scripture and give your life serving others. Never sacrifice the individual for the common good, for who decides what constitutes the common good? Jesus never tried to articulate such a definition; He simply said that He came to seek and save the lost.

¹ Mark 8:36-37