



April 23, 2021

The Glorious Potential of the Human Race

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. - (Ephesians 3:8–11)

This example of husbands and wives is meant to illustrate why there are people. People exist to love as Jesus loved. Indeed, the aim of God in human history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons with himself at the center of that community—as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant. In Jesus' life and death on behalf of all human beings, we behold God's estimate of our worth and the fervency of his desire to create that glorious community. We are made for love, and God was willing to send his own Son to die that he might secure it for us (Romans 8:32).

The greatest thing God will be showing off in eternity is this society of redeemed persons. This is what Paul was saying in his letter to the Ephesian Christians. In the third chapter, Paul talked about the mystery of the Gentiles being included in the grace of God, and the plan of God for the ages. And more than anything else, what will display the wisdom of God throughout eternity is his people redeemed in Jesus Christ.

One final point. You may remember how, when the sons of God came before God in the first chapter of Job, God said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" (1:8). God was proud of Job. Indeed, he was justly proud of him, even though Job had a long way to go. There is nothing that makes God happier than human beings, redeemed by the grace of God, devoting their lives—the moments and hours of their days—to the good of others and of creation, to the glory of God. That is our privilege, and the reason we are here. That is what humans are, why God pays attention to us, and why God abides with us.

Reflect: *The answer to the psalmist is clear: "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm. 8:4 NRSV). Just God's greatest treasure in all his created works. Consider the following thoughts from C.S. Lewis below. (Q) How do these words help us understand the invitation before us as we accept the fact that human beings are God's greatest treasure?*

*"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you say it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. These are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal." - **The Weight of Glory, C.S. Lewis***