

# The desire to be taken seriously

Ephesians 1:3-6 and Luke 12:4-7

## Ephesians 1:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

## Luke 12:4-7

<sup>4</sup> "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. <sup>6</sup> Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Bible passages taken from NIV 2011

**I've been reading a book.**

**Three questions that fascinate me:**

*Why do we do what we do?*

*What reason does the Bible give?*

*What is a Godly response?*

**Desires, pressing needs and wants.**

**An anchorage point to stay attached to and move out from to find answers.**

*Knowing what God thinks about you.*

**The all-important application.**

*How do you use that knowledge in relating to others?*

## A Bible Study

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, help us to be considerate of each other and aware of other's needs as well as our own. Help us to feel safe and confident to be self-aware. Give us faith to receive your word, understanding to know what it means and the willingness to put it into practice. May knowing you, and being known by you, be of great comfort and reassurance to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Share and listen without comment:** What do you think are people's pressing needs and wants today?

*(If in a group, go around the group and share one or two)*

**Discuss:** According to psychologist, social researcher and author of thirteen books Hugh MacKay, any list of things people do will have one underlying theme: almost without exception, the things we do express our desire to be taken seriously (Page 2 "What makes us tick") Do you agree or disagree? Support your thought with an example you've observed in others.

**Be self-aware. Just listen to each other without comment:**

Think of a situation when you needed or need to be taken seriously. Why?

What do you learn about yourself from that?

*(Maybe one or two might feel comfortable to share)*

**Read:** Ephesians 1:3-6 and Luke 12:4-7

**Ask, answer and listen to each others answers:**

What have you read in these two Bible passages that reassure you that God takes you seriously?

How might knowing that God takes you seriously help you when people don't take you seriously?

When you become aware of another person's need to be taken seriously what things could you do to help this person? (Try and come up with a Bible verse to support your action)

**Close with prayer.**