

IS YOUR LIFE ADDING VALUE TO THE WORLD?

By Nino Boezio

I recall a university professor yelling at his students saying, "You have a responsibility to make this world a better place!"

No one likes being made to feel small. Being told that we are to improve the world challenges our priorities. We may have lived in a state where we have been mostly taking, not giving to the world. Bringing the world down, rather than lifting it up.

Adding value to the world and making it a better place includes the following:

- Treating others in a way that we similarly want to be treated;
- Not taking advantage of others;
- Focusing on quality in all that we do;
- Upholding upstanding character, such that no one can truly criticize you as doing something bad, or inflicting pain upon others;
- An absence of selfishness but rather an attitude of service and selflessness; and
- Leaving persons and surroundings in a better condition after we leave, than when we arrived.

Our world likes to focus on the negative, and put down those who it sees as standing in the world's way regarding any particular agenda it views as important. But such a focus results in conflict and seeks to subjugate another person.

However, it is not always easy to know the proper course of action in every instance. Sometimes human existence and the relationships involved are rather complex.

History has recorded many cases where nations have sought to establish standards to govern the conduct of its citizens, and today, all countries have laws pertaining to matters of crime and human conduct. Among other things, these laws address matters pertaining to murder, theft, sexual conduct, family responsibilities and dishonest practices including giving false information.

But to further increase the value of our life and to add to what we contribute to the world, we should also consider the spiritual dimension. What and how we think permeates everything we ultimately do. It would be helpful to know what we should avoid. Also if there's a God, we don't want the correct view of Him to be distorted, and want to devote the

appropriate time to incorporate the knowledge of such a being into our existence, since this makes our life more effective and powerful.

In a discourse with a lawyer, Jesus was asked, *Matthew 22:36 (NKJV)* "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Here, Jesus was summarizing the Ten Commandments, and covered not only what many human laws are intended to achieve (as mentioned earlier), but addressed a spiritual dimension. If the world had adopted these standards on a deeply universal and comprehensive scale, the world would obviously be a dramatically better place, and the application of these principles within your life would certainly be adding value to the world.

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