

“One Sticker Price”

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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When people have unlimited funds for an item they desire, the price is seldom a concern. On the contrary, the price of the same item is essential for those with limited funds. They must consider if the cost of the item is reasonable and how it will affect their welfare in the long term. Lastly, those who desperately need the item to sustain their lives may be deprived of a future.

There are times when we can negotiate the price of an item with the seller, from which may include houses, lands, automobiles, goods, and services. Some things and places are reserved for the wealthy only because the sticker price will be beyond the ordinary person's ability to pay. Everything we purchase here on this earth has a time limit associated with it. They are temporal, and we were created for eternity. Much of our focus and desires in this life have been on the temporal things that do not satisfy our souls.

God, who is Spirit, offers every person the opportunity to dwell with Him in heaven. He offers this gift to everyone whether we accept it or refuse it. The sticker price and prerequisite is Holiness. *“By his will, we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.”* {Hebrews 10:10 NET}

We act and live our lives as if it weren't so. We want to believe that if we live a good and respect others that we will be able to live with Christ. As a reminder, to those who try so hard to be perfect at being good, our goodness does not qualify us for heaven. We can never be qualified by our own perfection. It may sound good and reasonable to us but not to God. God has set a higher standard by sending His Son (the One free Sticker Price) to make us like Him. The Son has sent the Holy Spirit to indwell us to live a life that pleases God and sets us apart. Jesus said, *“You must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”* {Matthew 5:48} Our perfection is actualized when God sees Christ in us to will and do for His good pleasure.

Celebrate with us at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychape.vgcc.club