

WHAT SET OF VALUES DO YOU LIVE BY?

Proverbs 22:6

Introduction: Everybody wants to impress each other and often copy something from somebody they admire, such as hair style, facial make up, jewelry, tatoos, dress style and voice styles. Everybody wants to be liked and especially admired by others. Even preachers imitate other preachers in their style of preaching, kind of Bible used, and type of clothing, wanting to be accepted as their "idol" preacher has been. We spend our lifetime establishing a set of values which are intended to cause us to be accepted. Just what set of values are you living by? Where did you get the "values" you have?

I. VALUES BEING LIVED BY ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO A PERSON

Ephesians 2:1-7; 4:1- 27

1. A person has a "treasure chest" inside of him/her and it holds things valued by that person.
 - One's family has a compartment
 - One's friends have a compartment
 - One's social acceptance
2. A person begins to collect values from birth.
 - Through childhood and youth, things are admired and collected.
 - A person imitates, mimics emotions, habits, characteristics of those he/she admires.
3. A person becomes what is kept in that "treasure chest."
 - *"...as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he..."*
4. Look at yourself:
 - What values are you living by that you got from your family? Your friends? Somebody you don't even know, but admired?
 - What values are you living by that are not really the real you?

II. BECOMING A CHRISTIAN PRESENTS A WHOLE NEW SET OF VALUES

Ephesians 4:17-24

1. If a Christian fails to maintain constant contact with the Lord, he/she cannot see clearly the new set of values, spiritual values, that are given by the Lord.
2. Disease, caused by germs, are picked up by not maintaining distance and not keeping one's self clean, disinfected and so are evil values.
 - Before one is hardly aware he/she has unknowingly become uncaring, greedy, covetous, sinful.
3. To obey the directions of the Lord, contained in the new set of values for the Christian, one will avoid being detracted from going back into his/her old sinful nature and ways.

4. Christians wrestle constantly with their two natures, the new set of values against the old and there slips out profanity, anger, words of hate, selfishness and greed.
5. There is a constant battle in the Christian's life between the old natural set of values and the new set of spiritual values and what a person values the most will be lived by most often.

III. CARE MUST BE TAKEN IN SELECTING WHICH VALUE TO KEEP

Ephesians 5:1, 16, 17

1. A person's natural set of values are selected at random with not much thought give, he/she just wants to be accepted by others.
 - The Christian's new set of values are to be selected carefully, intentionally and with thought.
2. As there have been models for a person to copy, imitate, adopt into his/her lifestyle, so there are models for the Christian to copy, imitate and adopt into his new lifestyle.
3. Ever notice how children imitate their parents? Parents think it is cute but most often that imitation will become a set attitude in that child's life and not of a good value.
4. Of what value to a Christian is:
 - Immorality, greed, filthy and profane talk?
 - Hate and unforgiveness?
5. Christians have a new model to imitate, copy, adopt that lifestyle and that model is Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus is the One Christians are to be like in every way.

IV. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS AN ENEMY TO CHANGING HIS/HER VALUES, LIFESTYLE

1 Peter 5:8-10

1. Many prisoners of war made it through their imprisonment and torture without giving in.
 - Satan will do his best to keep Christians from changing their life's set of values to the set of values Jesus wants them to live by.
2. Each Christian has different strengths and weaknesses, emotions, feelings, desires, habits and lifestyle patterns.
 - Every Christian sees things differently, understands differently.
 - Any Christian who is not being directed by the Holy Spirit cannot completely understand the new way of life, the new set of values that Jesus brings.
3. *Ephesians 6:14* describes protection the Christian has that comes with the new set of values, the new life style Jesus has for the Christian.

CONCLUSION:

1. To live by the new set of values Jesus gives to the Christian, one must make up his/her mind and begin to sort out what Jesus wants and does not want in one's life and get rid of it.
2. To live by the new set of values Jesus gives, the Christian cannot keep some of the old set of values that might seem harmless or are really liked.
3. To live by the new set of values Jesus gives, the Christian must allow the Holy Spirit to replace every single old value that is not useable in the new way of life Jesus wants the Christian to live.
4. Sadly, most Christians are trying to live by two sets of values, their old natural ways of life, the set of values they established before becoming a Christian and the new set of values that are required to live as Jesus wants. They will never be what they could be and should be for Jesus living as they are.
5. Take a look at your own life. Which set of values dominates your life? What changes do you need to make? Then make those changes right now! Either you are living totally for Jesus or you are not.