

Eight Is Enough-# 4-Values

Keith Robison

What Are Your Values?

or how do you decide what's most important in life?

How would you define values?

Definition of Values

relative worth, merit, or importance

Important and lasting beliefs or ideals shared by the members of a culture about what is good or bad and desirable or undesirable. Values have major influence on a person's behavior and attitude and serve as broad guidelines in all situations.

Key Passages

II Corinthians 5:1-10 and Colossians 3: 12-16

"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life." Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore, we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So, we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

#1-Godly values require a knowledge of what's important to God

- ▶ *"For we **know** that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."*
- ▶ *Wisdom and knowledge start with understanding that God "values" what He created and has protected those eternally who believe and accept His purpose in their lives.*
- ▶ *Paul then goes into detail as to how God values what He has created.*

#2- Values start in the home

- ▶ Paul referenced our eternal relationship with God "what we long for" by constantly referring to our bodies as HOME or a dwelling place 8 times in this passage.
- ▶ Question: What comes to your mind with you think of "home"?
- ▶ The idea of "home" refers to something that brings comfort and security.
- ▶ The training of values MUST be clearly defined in the home. Those values will bring a sense of comfort, like a home does.

Deut. 6: 7-9 says, "Impress them (God's Word-Values) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

- ▶ Values are to be shared in a natural environment
- ▶ Values are to influence our daily experiences
- ▶ Values are to have a physical presence in our lives. People should know what they are.

#3- Values cover our vulnerabilities

"longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked"

- ▶ How do we overcome our vulnerabilities?
- ▶ By being properly clothed spiritually with what God values.
- ▶ Paul uses the phrase "clothed" in this passage 4 times.
- ▶ So, what are God's clothing accessories (values)?
- ▶ Some can be found in Col. 3:12-16

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe** yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

15 Pieces of Value Clothing

Compassion	Peace
Kindness	Thankfulness
Humility	Teachable/teaching
Gentleness	Admonishing
Patience	Wisdom
Forbearance	Singing
Forgiveness	Gratitude
Love	

Give at least 3 examples of how a value listed above (something that is important to you) can influence what you do in your home, work, social life.

#4. Godly values build confidence in your life

“Therefore, we are always confident...We are confident” vs. 6,8

- ▶ **When you live by Godly values you can be confident of at least one thing.**
- ▶ **You will please God.**

” So, we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it”

#5-We will be held accountable by the values we chose to live by.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

- ▶ The good and bad things we choose to do in our bodies are determined by the values we have chosen for our lives.

Evaluating your values

- ▶ **What would you say are your top 10 values?**
- ▶ **When you live by those values do you feel satisfied, happy, fulfilled?**
- ▶ **Give a specific example of how your top 10 values made you happy, fulfilled, and satisfied.**
- ▶ **For example, because you value family and “time” with family you turned down a job opportunity or promotion that would have required you to give up more family time.**
- ▶ **You should be able to “see evidence” of how your values shape who you are and what’s important to you.**