

VALUES

Much is mentioned about values in our society. Some believe that our values have diminished; that we have lowered our values pertaining to social norms. Values are sometimes applied to a politician or political race – to connote personal integrity, character and other intrinsic qualities that manifest in decisions, behavior, and ethics.

"Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of values."

-- Albert Einstein

What do you consider valuable; or what do you value the most?

- ✘ Do you value money and personal wealth, material possessions such as a car or house, or a closet full of clothes and other personal items?
- ✘ Do you value social acceptance, being popular or well-liked by others to the point that you willing to do much, even things you don't like, to win acceptance or attention?
- ✓ Do you value yourself? In other words, do you consider that you are valued by God and that he loves you very much and knows everything about you?

Values are developed through our families, friends, society, and the media. To rely on the media, and in particular television, would be to relegate yourself to a sliding scale of relevant values, so-called, that will utterly leave you vacillating from one day to the next. Not to over exaggerate, but television and the movie industry has done much to damage and destroy the values of children and adults alike by programs that demean chastity, honesty, respect and other virtues. The significant influence of television, movies, and media cannot be ignored – it has had a profound influence that must be recognized and understood within our framework of what is right and what is valuable in God's sight.

We can claim one set of values but live by a different set of values – a condition that is sometimes referred to as double-mindedness. Having two lifestyles or sets of values may seem convenient or even pleasurable; eventually however, the condition is learned by others (friends and such) while having been known all along by God.

Whether you're a child or adult, values are very important; and what you value is very important as well. To value God, his mercy and love, is the right place to begin our framework of values – God will develop your values and help you discern those sources, the media or otherwise, that stand in contrast.

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