



HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

# HOAW Newsletter

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

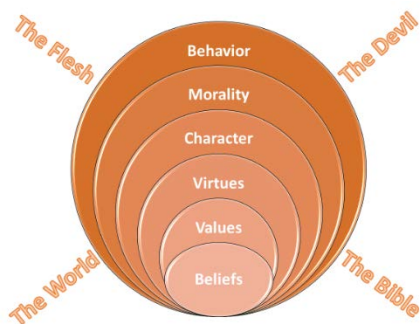
James 1:22-27

## January 2020

## A Value Centered Life

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

**"Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny."**



All of us have values. Even criminals have values. The question you must ask yourself is, "Are your values based upon Biblical truth?" Our behavior is governed by values and our values are determined by our beliefs.

Our beliefs are the anchor of our behavior. From our beliefs arise our values. Values lived out consistently become virtues. Our virtues form our character and provide the morality that influences our behavior.

Values are the bridge between beliefs and behavior. Our value system acts as the "operating system" driving our everyday thoughts and behavior. God's principles found in Scripture are external laws that are permanent, unchanging, and universal in nature. Values, on the other hand, are internal and subjective, and they may change over time. **Hugh Whelchel, Executive Director of the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*  
**Romans 12:1-2**

What Paul is telling us in this passage in Romans is that **our value system must be reprogrammed from time to time.** Our value system, or character, must be

continually checked and realigned with God's principles.

Many Christians have value systems that are a collection of conflicting ideas gleaned more from the common culture than from God's word.

Here is where the rubber meets the road. Most parents I know desperately want to **shield their children** from the cruel experiences they are bound to encounter as they engage the world around them.

So how do we prepare our children for the bumps in the road we call life? How do we equip them for the harsh reality of living life in a fallen world? How do we give them what they need to navigate the mine fields they will encounter along the way?

### IMPORTANCE OF VALUES

**We have, in God's word, the answers to these questions. In it, I find repeated instances where we are exhorted (strongly encouraged) to embrace and act upon certain values.**

**Values from the heart of God...Galatians 5:22-24; 2 Peter 1:5-9; Proverbs 4:1-13**

The *Fruit of the Spirit*, in essence, are values from the heart of God given to us in seed form at the moment we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord and are to be nurtured and cultivated in our lives.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

- Love, Joy, Peace (UPWARD),
- Patience, Kindness, Goodness (OUTWARD)
- Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control (INWARD)

To keep us from being *ineffective* and *unproductive* we are encouraged to adopt and act upon certain values.

*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 2 Peter 1:5-9*

- Goodness
- Knowledge
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Brotherly Kindness
- Love

We are given *guidelines* in selecting values that will mark our lives and that of our children and grandchildren.

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is*

*excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9*

- True
- Noble
- Right
- Pure
- Lovely
- Admirable

*Every decision you make is based on a value* you have established by a belief you hold...

*Values are being exercised* when a father or mother, grandfather or grandmother teaches their children or grandchildren the importance of a good work ethic, how to handle money, what to believe, how to act...but values are better caught than taught.

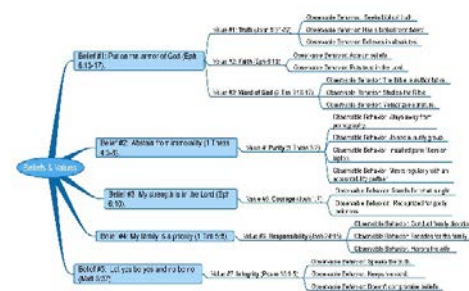
If your children, or grandchildren, can *observe in your actions* what you truly value there is a good chance they will embrace those values as well. But we have to be intentional about it.

*Very decision you make is based on a value* you have established by a belief you hold—whether you can articulate them or not? Your values form the moral code you live by—for good or bad.

*There is an absolute link* between what you believe at the core of your being and what you value. I'm not talking about what you SAY you believe; I am talking about what you truly believe.

*There is an absolute link* between what you believe at the core of your being and what you value...

BELIEF	VALUE
We are created in the image of God.	Everyone has value.
Love one another.	Care for strangers.
Your faith will be tested.	Perseverance.
The truth will set you free.	Honesty is the best policy.



More simply *values* are...

- The **Hills** you are prepared to die on...
- The **Principles** you intend to live by...
- The **Filter** through which you process your decisions...
- The **Character** you hope to exhibit...

As important as values are it is more important what you allow as an *authority over your values*. What will inform, condition, and shape your values?

**GUIDELINES**

*One of the most important duties a parent or grandparent can perform is to give their children or grandchildren **VALUES** to live their lives by...*

- 1. Pray often.**  
Lord God, what values do You want for them that will mark their life? Heavenly Father, what statement of value do You want attached to their life? Sovereign God, what focus or trajectory do You want their life to take?
- 2. Assign values.**  
Although not exhaustive, the *following list of values* may be helpful in your selection.

*Personal:* decency, courage, gratitude, endurance, self-discipline, centeredness, wisdom, strength, perseverance, integrity, responsibility, honor, commitment, valor.

*Spiritual:* devotion, holiness, obedience, prayerfulness, thankfulness, dedication, diligence, mercy, grace, godliness, faith, hope, charity, truth.

*Relational:* compassion, forgiveness, friendliness, honesty, justice, fairness, selflessness, equality, forbearance, loyalty, empathy, hospitality, caring, generosity.

**Spiritual Fruit:** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, poverty, chastity, servanthood, spirituality.

The following questions will help in the selection process.

- What are the things they respect so deeply that they tend to be resentful of those who treat them with disrespect?
- What is it that they treasure so highly that they are irritated when other people don't?
- What values are currently evident in their life?
- What values do you intuitively feel need to mark their life?
- What values resonate with your observations of their behavior?
- What values describe their character?
- What values distinguish them from others?
- What values will help them navigate the world ahead of them?

### 3. Select informing Scripture.

**Scripture will illuminate the value you have chosen and will inform and condition its outcome** provided that the child allows Scripture to shape the outworking of the value and enlighten his or her understanding.

**APPLICATION:** Here are a few suggestions...

- Live a value-centered life.**  
*In doing so, you will **model the importance** of living a value-centered life. Remember, values are **more caught than they are taught**. What are the hills you are prepared to die on, the principles you intend to live by, the filter through which you will make your decisions?*
- Give values to your children.**  
*By prayer and observation select one or two values that will shape their life and positively mark their journey—values that will be encouraged and recognized when they are acted upon— **when you sit at home and when***

*you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

- Mark by ceremony the significant events or transitions in your children's lives.**
- Celebrate instances when values have been demonstrated.**
- Agree on the values you will lead your family by.**

## OTHER NEWS



Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you can take to become who God created you to be.

**Foundations of a Warrior** (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

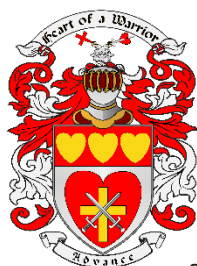
**The Compass** (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God.

**The Map** (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

**The Guide** (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.  
[www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/](http://www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/)

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at HOAWMinistries.com.



## Donations

Please consider giving to Heart of a Warrior Ministries. HOAW Ministries needs your financial support. Our ability to help men live God-honoring lives depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on [heartofawarrior.org](http://heartofawarrior.org). Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out **The Store** on our website ([www.heartofawarrior.org](http://www.heartofawarrior.org)). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

## Websites for Men

### Legacy Minded Men

[www.legacymindedmen.org](http://www.legacymindedmen.org)

### Heart of a Warrior Ministries

[www.Heartofawarrior.org](http://www.Heartofawarrior.org)

### Church for Men

<http://churchformen.com/>

### Resolute

<https://beresolute.org/>

### Life Way Men

<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

### Men's Fraternity

<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

### Man in the Mirror

<http://maninthemirror.org/>

### Men with No Regrets

<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

### National Collision of Men's Ministries

<http://ncmm.org/>

### Every Man's Battle

<https://newlife.com/emb/>

### Iron Sharpens Iron

<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

### Ransomed Heart Ministries

<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

### Band of Brothers

[www.bandofbrothers.org/](http://www.bandofbrothers.org/)

### Man Up God's Way

<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

### Iron Works

<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>