

Christian values

The journey of life only offers two paths - Matt 7:13-14 - 13 "**ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE**. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and **MANY ENTER THROUGH IT**. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and **ONLY A FEW FIND IT**.

The correct value system will be dictated by what you value - Matt 6:19-21 - 19 "**DO NOT STORE** up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But **STORE UP** for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For **WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO**.

- Your purpose
- What affects you
- What motivates you
- Who & what means the most to you

Christians are supposed to base their values on God, unfortunately what's been happening, is Christians are basing God on THEIR values...this is a huge problem. Some values that are used to form (distort) God in our lives are:

- Family
- Career
- History
- Nation
- Well-being
- Life
- Desires of "me"

PATH TO TRUE VALUE

Denying self, allows us to receive true value - Matt 16:24-26 - 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, **HE MUST DENY HIMSELF** and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life FOR ME will find it. 26 **What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?** Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

- Deny self means:
 - **For God** I make sure anything I value must be based on God ONLY!
 - **For God** I will view everything through faith and not my perceptions
 - **For God** I'm not to be led by my desires, but by HIS will
 - **For God** I readjust ALL relationships to fit God's description of relationships.

We must adjust everything to the correct value - 1 Cor 7:29-31 - 29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For **this world in its present form is passing away**.

Nothing and no one trumps that value system - Matt 10:37-39 - 37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

If your value system is anything else other than Christ, it makes you an enemy of Christ- Phil 3:18-21 - 18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, **many live as enemies of the cross of Christ**. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. **THEIR MIND IS ON EARTHLY THINGS**. 20 But **our citizenship is in heaven**. And **we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ**, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Simply put, we must devalue in order to correctly value - Phil 3:7-11 - 7 But **whatever was to my profit** I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for **whose sake I have lost all things**. I **consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ** 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the **righteousness that comes from God and is by faith**. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Finally, Christian values are for Christians. To the world, they are foolish and the world CANNOT accept them - 1 Cor 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and **HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THEM**, because they are spiritually discerned.