



VALUES?

"Values—What Are They?" Proverbs 1:1-7

No. 2047

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That everybody has "values" is obvious. It is equally obvious that there is considerable disagreement on what constitutes a valid value system. How should we approach and address this issue?

I. Values—What Are They?

"Personal beliefs that propel us to action, to a particular kind of behavior and life."

(Hunter Lewis, *A Question of Values*, p. 1)

A matter of:

- A. Interest.
- B. Preference.
- C. Respect.
- D. Commitment.

"Value...represents moral authority as well as intellectual interest of physical appetite." (A. James Reichley, "Religion in American Public Life," p. 9)

II. Values—Where Do They Come From?

A. The production of values.

- 1. Authority.
- 2. Deductive logic.
- 3. Sense experience.
- 4. Emotion.
- 5. Intuition.
- 6. Science. (Lewis, p. 1-11)

B. The packaging of values.

- 1. Self decides.
- 2. Society determines.
- 3. Sovereign reigns.

Note: Secular humanism combines "self" and "society." Theistic humanism acknowledges "sovereign," "self," and "society."

III. Values—What Saith the Scriptures?

A. Mental and moral skills must be attained. v. 2

- 1. Wisdom. 2. Discipline. 3. Understanding.

B. Practical common sense must be acquired. v. 3

- 1. Right. 2. Just. 3. Fair.

C. Both naïve and smart need help. vv. 4-5

- 1. Learning. v. 6
- 2. Guidance.

D. "The fear of the Lord" is where you start. v. 7

Points to Ponder: Can I identify my value system? In what way has it recently affected my behavior?