



VALUES?

"Social Values—Relating to People" Proverbs 3:3; 21:21

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At the conclusion of the famous book "Habits of the Heart," the authors wrote: "Our society has been influenced by the tradition of modern individualism. We have taken the position that our most important task today is the recovery of the insights of the older biblical...traditions." Let's start with Proverbs 3:3; 21:21.

I. Social Values Rooted in God's Character.

- A. "Love"—"hesed" rooted in God's character.
 - 1. Loved—a steadfast commitment. Deuteronomy 7:7-9
 - 2. Love—a moral obligation to another's well-being. Micah 7:18f
 - 3. Love—a strong initiative of kindness, tenderness and compassion. Exodus 24:6-7
- B. "Faithfulness"—rooted in God's character.
 - 1. "Determined loyalty to a gracious covenant."
 - 2. Fulfillment of commitment. Genesis 24:27; Lamentations 3:22f
- C. "Righteousness"—rooted in God's character.
 - 1. "Fulfillment of expectations in a relationship."
 - 2. God a righteous creator—redeemer. Deuteronomy 32:3-4

II. Social Values Reflected in God's People.

- A. Love as a value.
 - 1. Inherent inability. 20:6
 - 2. Deep-down desire. 19:22
 - 3. Realistic repentance. 16:6; See 28:13
 - 4. Loving lifestyle. 14:22
- B. Faithfulness as a value.
 - 1. Trustworthiness. 25:13; 13:17
 - 2. Truthfulness. 12:22; 26:28
- C. Righteousness as a value.
 - 1. Relating to God rightly. Isaiah 64:6; See Psalm 89:14f
 - 2. Relating to family rightly. 23:22-25
 - 3. Relating to society rightly. 14:35; 29:2, 7

III. Social Values Reproduced in God's Way.

- A. The work of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23
- B. The co-operation of the believer.
 - 1. Don't let them leave you. 3:3
 - 2. Bind them, write them.
 - 3. Pursue them. 21:21
- C. The benefits all round.
 - "Life, prosperity and honor."