



## VALUES?

### "Ultimate Values—What Really Matters" Proverbs 15:33-16:7

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We began by noting that "the fear of the Lord" is the fundamental basis of a system of values, and we have been reminded continually that absolute values are found in the character and nature of God. We conclude by recognizing that ultimate values are found in relationship to the Lord, particularly in doing that which pleases Him.

#### I. Pleasing Him by Embracing What He Decrees.

A. Humility comes before honor. 15:33

1. The priority of humility.
  - a. Because pride offends against God by self-exaltation
  - b. Because pride offends against others by self-preoccupation.
  - c. Because pride offends against self by self-delusion.
2. The possibility of honor. See 1 Kings 3:1-13
  - a. Because humility acknowledges God's grace.
  - b. Because humility addresses human need.
  - c. Because humility admits to personal inadequacy.

B. Submission comes before success.

1. To man belong the plans... 16:1
2. But motives are weighed by the Lord... 16:2
3. (So) commit to the Lord whatever you do... 16:3
4. The Lord works out everything... 16:4

#### II. Pleasing Him by Avoiding What He Detests.

A. The supercilious attitudes He detests. 16:5

B. The social actions He detests. 6:16-19

C. The spiritual activities He detests. 15:8a; 28:9

#### III. Pleasing Him by Doing What He Desires.

A. He desires that we obtain mercy. 28:13; See Psalm 32

1. The dangers of concealment.
2. The delights of confession.

B. He desires that we avoid evil. 16:6

1. By fearing the Lord.
2. By acting out of love and faithfulness.

C. He desires that we act honorably.

1. To society as a whole. 11:20b
2. To enemies in particular. 16:7

**Points to Ponder:** How closely do my values equate to God's? Is "the fear of the Lord" the beginning and "pleasing the Lord" the end of my values?