



Spring House Cleaning

LESSON 3 ~ *Verify the Values*

1. A value system is a set of non-negotiable beliefs or principles, or a code of ethics, by which a person or group lives.
2. Every home has a value system in place, whether consciously defined and declared or not.
3. A value system is not merely stated in words; it is lived out in intentions and decisions and actions.
4. A value system produces character qualities and strengths which enable us to live out our definitions of success.

Secular values

▼ An inventory of secular values

- ▶ **Secular philosophical values confuse the Christian home**
 - relativism** ~ there is no absolute truth; truth is relative to each person or situation
 - humanism** ~ humans are the supreme and central beings in the universe
 - liberalism** ~ humans are autonomous and naturally good, not fallen or sinful
 - secularism** ~ religion is not relevant to human welfare and is an unimportant pursuit
 - skepticism** ~ nothing is knowable and every assertion of "truth" should be doubted
 - naturalism** ~ there is no supernatural force in the universe, only the forces of nature
 - nihilism** ~ life does not have any objective meaning and existence is pointless
 - fatalism** ~ everything in the universe and life is predetermined and inescapable
- ▶ **Secular practical values cripple the Christian home**
 - materialism** ~ money and material possessions are most important in life
 - hedonism** ~ pursuing pleasure is the primary goal because of the brevity of life
 - individualism** ~ selfish agenda should prevail and each should "look out for number one"
 - cynicism** ~ nothing really matters and an apathetic negativism about life should prevail

▼ The invasion of secular values

- ▶ **Through worldly education — through wicked entertainment**

▼ The implications of secular values

- ▶ **Sin — selfishness — senselessness — shortsightedness — spiritual shipwreck**

Scriptural values

▼ Consider our core Christian values

1. **The Bible is absolutely authoritative and applicable**
2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
2. **God is sovereign and supremely good**
1 Timothy 6:15 God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light,
3. **People are precious but perishing in sin**
Romans 5:8 God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
4. **Life is limited but eternity is everlasting**
Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,
5. **Jesus is the only source of salvation**
Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
6. **People are divinely designed with purpose and potential**
Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."
7. **Success and significance are fundamentally spiritual**
Matthew 25:21 Well done, good and faithful servant!

▼ Consider the consequences of Christian values

- ▶ **Loving the Lord — prioritizing people — treasuring time — focused on forever**

Straightening and strengthening spiritual values

▼ We need Christian education in the home

- ▶ **Consistent Christian character**
Titus 2:7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech
- ▶ **Coaching**
Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- ▶ **Conversation**
Deuteronomy 6:7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
- ▶ **Confrontation**
Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.
- ▶ **Congregating**
Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—

▼ We need Christian empowerment in the home

- ▶ **We need the Word**
Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- ▶ **We need wisdom**
James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.
- ▶ **We need willpower**
Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.