

BIBLE DEVOTION

By Rev Peter Rahme – CDP Deputy President

The foundation & formation of Christian Values

Towards Eternity...With Integrity ...In Humility

.....Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself..... this do, and thou shalt live. (LK.10: 27b- 28b)

Values are ever before us and always present around us; from the moment we enter this world, the values of our parents and guardians are waiting to meet us and greet us.

Growing up, we are confronted and often conformed by the values of our communities and societies.

- In school, our thinking is structured and shaped by the values of our teachers and educators.
- In Church we are taught eternal values and trained to live by them by our pastors and spiritual leaders.

From birth to death, values, of some kind, under gird all the different stages of the story of our lives. Consciously or unconsciously, values are exercised and expressed from the seed of our conception to the seat of our conscience.

Whether dressed as life principles or tagged as ideal living; whether labeled as strategies for life or marked by whatever the buzzword at that time, they are really values. Every body has values; even hardened criminals; cold-blooded murderers, professional thieves and drug dealers have their own sets of values.

We display our values by the choices each one of us make from the moment we wake up, how we spend the day until we go to sleep.

Our lives are based and built upon values. We are also being designed and driven by values. It is therefore imperative the values that we consider dear to our heart and carry deep in our soul, are themselves founded on and formed by God's eternal truth, which will stand the test of time and succeed over the trials of life.

Question- Where can we go to find such a solid foundation and a strong formation with a written guarantee for that kind of success?

Answer - Of course the simple answer is always the word of God. In fact from creation to revelation the word is full of eternal values.

However there is a small difficulty. There are hundreds and hundreds of values to discover and develop. Which ones should come first?

Thankfully our great God and Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ simplifies the complexity of it for us.

In the New Testament, The Lord gives us two great commandments, of which he says, "**On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets**" (Matt 22:37 – 40) and He also says "**There is none other commandment greater than these.**"(Mark 12:29-31) .In other words **THIS IS IT**. There is no need to look any further.

Here our value sought.

Looking closely at the following chart, the serious reader cannot help but see and sense God's priority, plan and purpose as far as Christian values are concerned.

Please note the 3 essential keys for a foundation and formation of Christian Values. GOD...LOVE...PEOPLE...

In other words:

I am created and designed for relationships.

1, In my relationship with God- I am first and foremost to love the Lord Jesus Christ, look to Him, please Him and Hope in Him.

2. In my relationship with other people,- I am to love & help them ,and In lowliness of mind, choose to esteem them better than myself.

<u>(Matt 22:37- 40)</u> "Jesus said Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, & with all thy mind."	<u>(Mark 12:29-31)</u> "..Jesus answered.." Thou shalt love the Lord thy God.....and with all thy strength:	J ESUS	<u>Look unto JESUS</u> (Heb 12:2) - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;	<u>Please HIM</u> (1Th 4:1a)- Furthermoreas ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God,	<u>Hope in GOD</u> (Psalm 42:5a) - ... and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God:
..Thou shalt love thy neighbour as	..Thou shalt love thy neighbour as	O THERS	<u>Love one another</u> (John 15:12) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.	<u>Prefer you</u> (Phil 2:3 b) let each esteem other better than themselves.	<u>Help others</u> (2 Cor 1:11 a) Ye also helping together by prayer for us,
thyself." "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."	thyself." There is none other commandment greater than these."	Y OURSELF	<u>Lowliness of mind</u> (Phil 2:3); but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.	<u>Place myself Last</u> (Eph 3:8 a) Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints,	<u>Humble yourself</u> (James 4:10) Humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, ...

Hence our value stated- Towards Eternity...With Integrity ...In Humility.

*With the love of Christ
Peter*

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