

## *Discipleship Lesson 19*

### **Key Values**

*Key Memory Verse:*

*For what will it profit a man if he gains the  
whole world, and loses his own soul?*

*Mark 8:36*



# **Discipleship Lesson 19**

## **Key Values**

As you study this lesson you will understand why the following statements are not true.

1. Life does not begin until the baby is actually born.
2. Homosexuality is just another alternative lifestyle.
3. Just because a person's values are different from the Bible doesn't mean they are wrong.

### **What Are the Values I Must Hold On to and Practice?**

To be a Christian is to be committed to Christian values. It means that we agree with God on what has worked. It means that we love what God loves and hate what God hates. God has already told us His values. They are written in the Bible. God values justice. God values love. God values truth. God values forgiveness. God values keeping His commandments. God values life.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this lesson is to help us to understand the importance of values and to recognize some key values that every Christian must hold on to and practice, also to remember that the most important values are moral values.

Remember, your life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you want, but you can only spend it once. Spend life well. Don't throw it away on what is worthless. Spend life on the values that God says have great worth (Mark 8:36).

## Introduction

When we devalue God, we mistakenly think we add value to ourselves. Perhaps the simplest definition of sin is: To believe we have more value than God (Romans 1:21, 25).

Call it sin or call it stupidity. Either way, it is comparing ourselves and our possessions to God—living as if they possess value greater than God. Our generation has chosen to be self-centered, rather than God-centered. We value ourselves above all. Our happiness, our pleasures, and our ways take precedence over everything else. Child abuse occurs because we no longer value children. Marriages break up, and families crumble because we no longer value marriage and family. God is not central to our lives and decisions because we do not value God as highly as we value ourselves.

The results of our sin and stupidity are clear to see. We are not happier, we do not have more, putting ourselves first has not brought personal fulfillment; rather, failure to value God as God has resulted in epidemic unhappiness, moral bankruptcy, and personal misery.

God has infinite value, but that doesn't mean He is valued. That is where Christian values come in. A Christian is someone who values God above all. A Christian values God for God alone.

When God is valued as God, He is more important than happiness, more precious than any possession, more important than life itself. Every decision we make, every relationship we have, every word we utter is in some way an expression of our values.

## Notes and Questions

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### I. God's Most Important Values

- A. The Ten Commandments were given by God as the most important absolutes around which to build our lives. When properly understood, the Ten Commandments cover every value that is necessary upon which to build a successful life and family.

As a matter of fact, America's entire judicial system is built on these ten values. It is important to understand why God gave them. He did not give them to hurt, but to help; not to restrict, but to give real liberty; not to take away from, but to provide an environment of fulfillment and enjoyment. They were given for both protection and production.

These Ten Commandments are like God's physical laws. For example, the law of gravity can be debated, ignored, denied, or laughed at, but the consequences will not change. **God's Ten Commandments are not suggestions.** They are not optional. If successful lives are to be built, they must be obeyed.

- B. God gives the Ten Commandments in order of their importance. Each commandment is a precept upon which many principles are drawn. When each precept is properly understood and studied, the most important values in life can be attached clearly to these ten foundations for life.
- C. Read Exodus 20:1-17. List the Ten Commandments in order, and then list one additional value you believe can be derived from each of these Ten Commandments.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Values: Key priorities, life purpose, \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Values: Security, \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Values: Respect authority, \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Values: Priorities in worship \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Values: Traditional family values, \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
Values: Pro life, \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
Values: Self-discipline, \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
Values: Responsibility, \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
Values: Courage, \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
Values: Contentment, \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Let There Be Life—Exodus 20:13

Because God is the author of life, He wants people to do all they can to preserve life. God says no to three things:

- A. First, God says no to suicide. Suicide is the number-two killer among high school and college students. More teenagers are killed by suicide than by traffic accidents. People say, "It's my life. I have the right to live the way I want and take my life if I want to." That is not true. God says He gave each person life in Romans 14:7, "For none of us lives to himself and no one dies to himself." He is the only One that has the right to take life.

The best thing that a person can say to anyone who contemplates suicide is that his life matters to God. God gave him life for a purpose. Committing suicide short circuits the purpose for which God created him.

- B. Second, God says no to mercy killing. Euthanasia is causing the death of someone because of deformity, old age, or an incurable disease. God says that He is the one who holds life in His hand (Job 12:10). "In whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind."

No one has the right to help someone take his or her own life. This is totally different than not wanting to be on *life support*. There is nothing that a person violates scripturally when he has made a living will that says he does not want to be kept alive artificially by machines.

## Notes and Questions:

C. Third, God says no to abortion. Psalm 139:13–16 makes it clear that the unborn is a person, not a blob of tissue. Life is a gift from God. There is no such thing as an accidental pregnancy. Every conception was planned by God and is a gift from God. A couple may decide to make love, but it is God who decides to make life. Because of that truth, there is no such thing as illegitimate children.

1. How does God demonstrate His sovereign control over every person's birth in Genesis 20:17–18 and Genesis 25:21?
2. Other verses that support this principle: Job 10:8–12; Psalm 22:9–10; Psalm 100:1–3; Psalm 127:3.
3. What should Christians do about abortion?
  - a. Try to persuade those we know who are going to have an abortion that they should not, based upon God's Word (Proverbs 24:11–12).
  - b. Speak in defense of the unborn (Proverbs 31:8–9). Encourage your pastor to preach on this subject.
  - c. Be a support to women who are in difficult pregnancy situations. We are hypocrites if we say abortion is wrong yet we make no attempt to help those in need (James 1:27; 1 John 3:16–18).
  - d. It is very important that you emphasize God's forgiveness to those who have experienced an abortion.
  - e. Support civic leaders who are prolife (Isaiah 5:20–21).

### III. Family Values—Exodus 20:14, 17

The strength of every church, every community, and every country is found in the value we place on marriage. There are many sins that are tearing down the institution of the home today, but one that is gaining greater acceptance every year is homosexuality.

A. What does the Bible say about homosexuality?

1. What did God intend for a sexual relationship? See Genesis 1:27, 2:20–24.

2. This is reconfirmed in the New Testament with other teachings about the role of the husband and wife (Ephesians 5:22–33; Matthew 19:3–6).

**B. What types of sexual behavior does God speak against?**

1 Corinthians 6:9–10

Galatians 5:19

Ephesians 4:17–22

1 Thessalonians 4:1–8

**C. Where does the Bible specifically speak against homosexuality?**

1. Note Leviticus 18:22, 20:13—What did God command and say about this sin?
2. Read Genesis 19:1–29—What sin brought God's destruction upon the city of Sodom and Gomorrah?
3. The strongest New Testament text addressing both homosexuality and lesbianism is found in Romans 1:18–32. NIV - What did you learn from this passage?

**D. Can homosexuals become Christians? Read 1 Corinthians 6:9–11**

1. We should welcome into our churches those struggling with same-sex attraction. This does not mean that those living unrepentant, openly gay lifestyles should be received as members, or should play any role in the leadership of the church. But the church should be the safest place on the planet for anyone to talk about anything, including same sex-attraction.
2. Should we not afford the same consideration to those who struggle with heterosexual lust, gossip, pride, or gluttony?

## Notes and Questions:

### E. Commonly raised objections

1. "I was born this way, so I cannot help my same sex attraction."

First, there are no proven scientific facts that support the gay gene idea. Second, all of us are born with sinful desires. But as Christians we are responsible to control our emotions and impulses to commit sinful acts.

2. "Stop judging me"

Because Christians believe the Bible condemns same-sex behavior, defenders of this behavior charge us with "judging LGBT people" in violation of Jesus words in Matthew 7:1-5. First, this passage does not teach we should not judge, but that we should not be hypocritical in our judging. Second, we are to judge behavior by the Word of God. We are to speak up on issues of eternal significance. Read Isaiah 5:20-21. However, our speech should be seasoned with gentleness and respect. Galatians 6:1, Colossians 3:12-15, 2 Timothy 2:24-26

3. "The law has changed to allow gay marriage and so the church should change also."

What is legal is not necessarily what is right before God. For example, abortion is legal but the Bible says it is murder. God's standards remain the same because he is a God of supreme holiness who knows what's best for us.

### IV. Practical Application

- A. What would be your response in the future when you are asked about the subject of abortion or homosexuality? Why?

- B. In the past, what are some things you have placed greater value on than God alone?

- C. Name two important truths or principles that stood out to you from this lesson.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



## ***THE PYRAMID OF LIFE***



**Your beliefs determine your values.  
Your values drive your actions.**

Let me show you how to use The Pyramid of Life in your Bible study.

Read James 1:2–5. What should be one of our beliefs?

God allows \_\_\_\_\_  
to come into our life to produce maturity.

Is this an opinion or a truth to believe?

\_\_\_\_\_

What values should this produce in my life?

\_\_\_\_\_

What actions should I take when I face trials? (verse 5)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes and Questions:**

