

CHRISTIAN VALUES AND ETHICS

SERVANT LEADERS



CHRISTIAN VALUES AND ETHICS

As followers of Jesus Christ no matter where we are in the world at the time of our salvation we become part of a new culture. Culture can be broken down into two areas, BELIEF and BEHAVIOR. As the Holy Spirit begins His work in our lives using the Word of God to transform us He is changing our BELIEFS and BEHAVIORS to align us with our CREATOR. We understand that it is God's desire to take these two in order, changing our BELIEFS before our BEHAVIOR. Trying to just change our behavior in order to accommodate what we think God or others want does not cause true change and in time will produce exactly what Christ confronted in the Pharisees, Matthew 23:26 "You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean." There is a direct connection between what our core values are and how they shape our beliefs. There is another direct connection to how these beliefs shape and direct our behavior.

WHAT ARE VALUES?

3 Descriptions:

1. The things you hold as important.
2. They manage the way you live and work.
3. They determine your life priorities.

The priorities that drive my lifestyle.

My values form a code that determine my priorities.

"Values are the essence of who we are as human beings. Our values take us out of bed each morning, help select the work we do, the company we keep, the relationships we build, and ultimately, groups and organizations associate with. Our values influence every decision and move we make, even to the point of how we choose to make our decisions." - Dr. Robert Rue

3 Values that are import to you:



WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ETHICS?

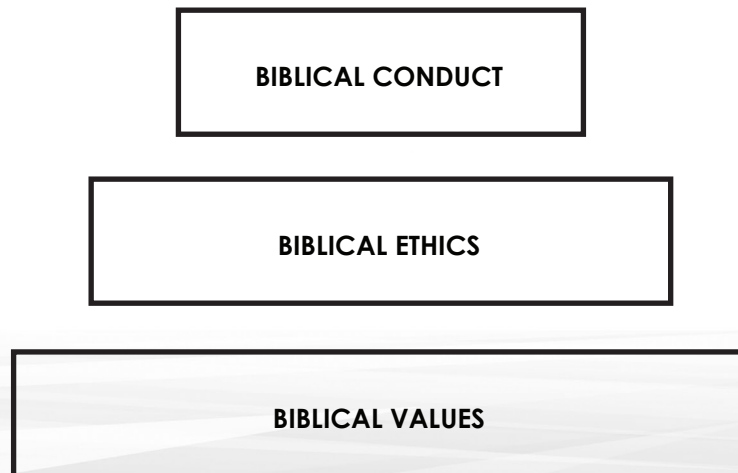
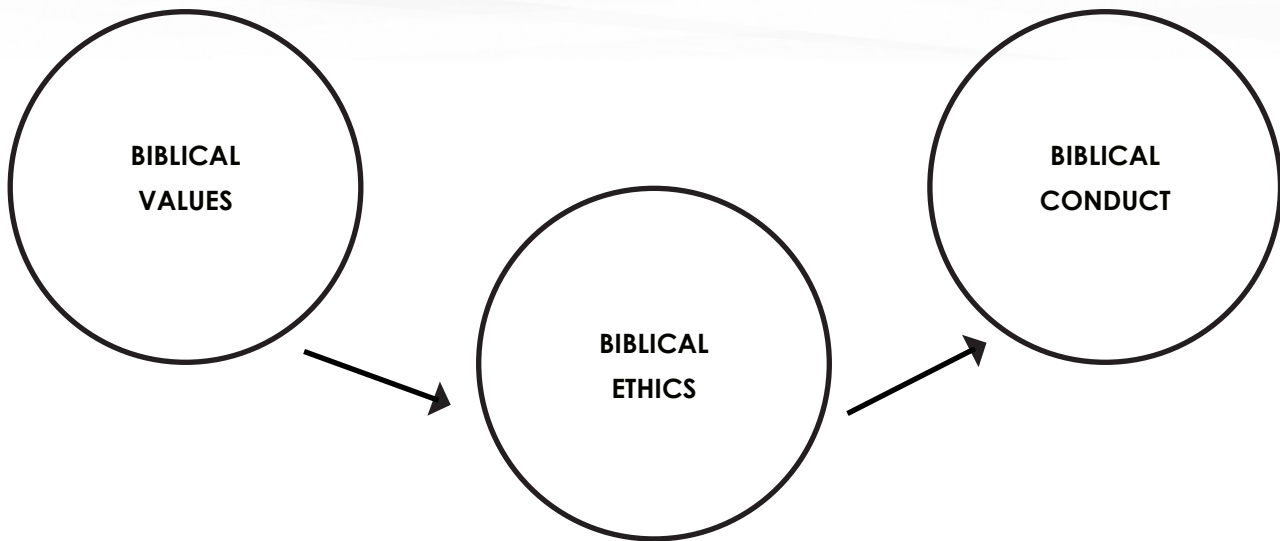
Christian Ethics consists of the standards by which evaluate and determine our behavior so that we may live as a believer a life that pleases God.

Your ethic answers the most important question for each believer.

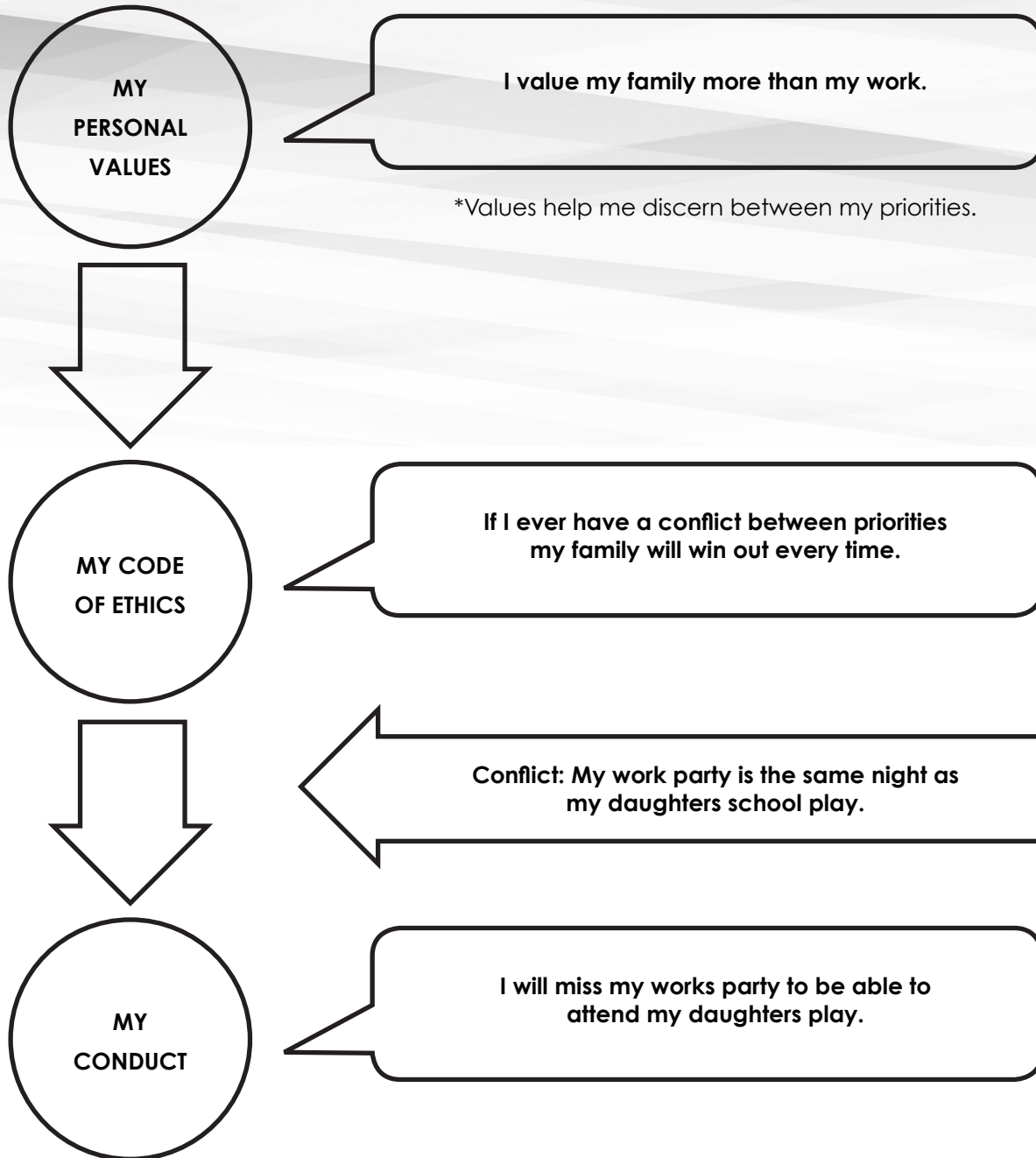
How should I live to do what is right and just and good?

Answering this question in affect creates the foundation to what our Code for Christian Living a Christian Life springs from.

The Code for Living a Christian Life Consists of



HOW DO VALUES INFLUENCE MY CONDUCT?

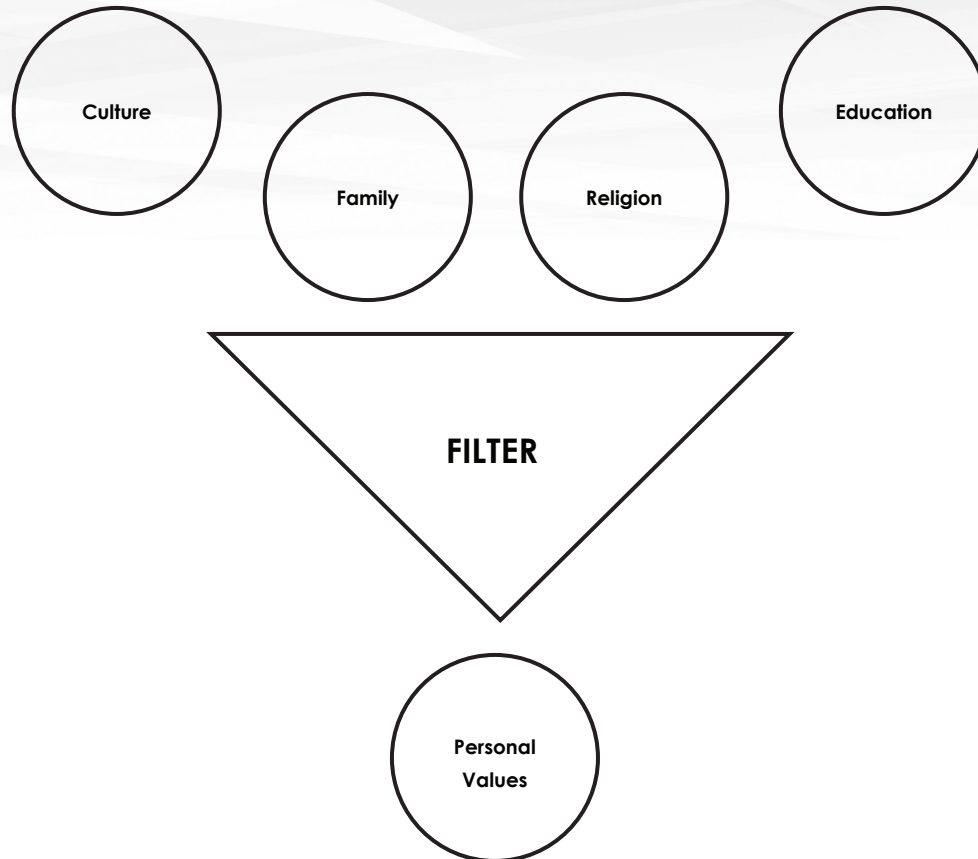


The Question

How Do we form Values?

Each of us has a culture we grew up in, a family we were raised in, a religious belief system and schools that formed us. All of these together have shaped our values over the years. The key to all that has gone into our lives has been the type of filter we have used to pick and choose what we let in and shape our core values.

TWO TYPES OF FILTERS



Before personal salvation the filter for my values was **What makes me happy?**

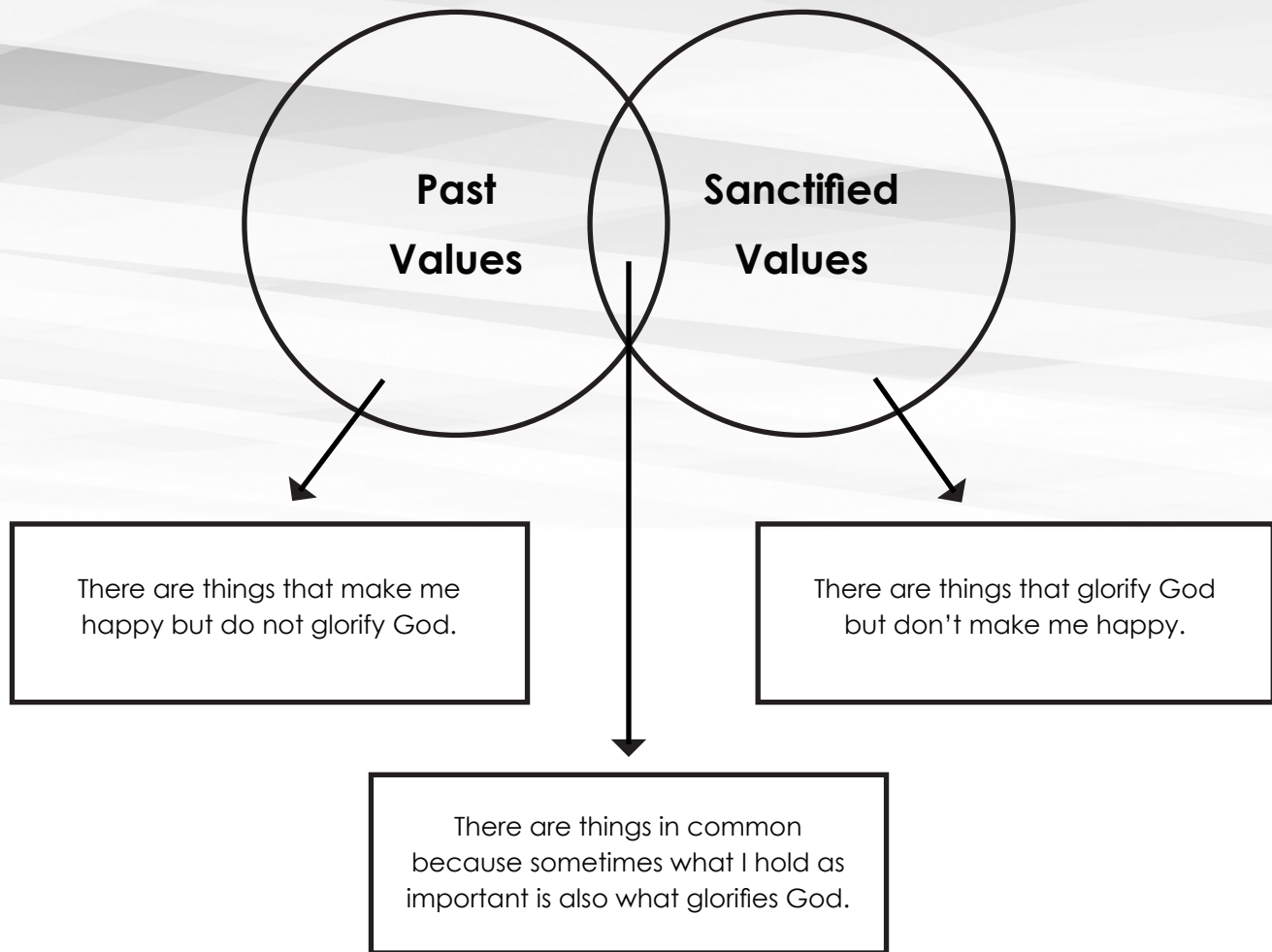
After salvation the filter form my values is **What Glorifies God?**

A Difference in Values Can Cause Conflict

1. Biblical Values are Constant. They do not change.
2. When conflict arrises it is because there is a difference in personal values.
3. In theory all we need to do is align our values with biblical values and this will eliminate conflict.



But there is a struggle and a tension!



The Result:

1. If we are honest, we must admit that we have carried over some of our selfish values into our new life in Christ.
2. These mixed, or at odd values affect our code of ethics.
3. This erroneous code of ethics produces a mixture of good and bad behavior.



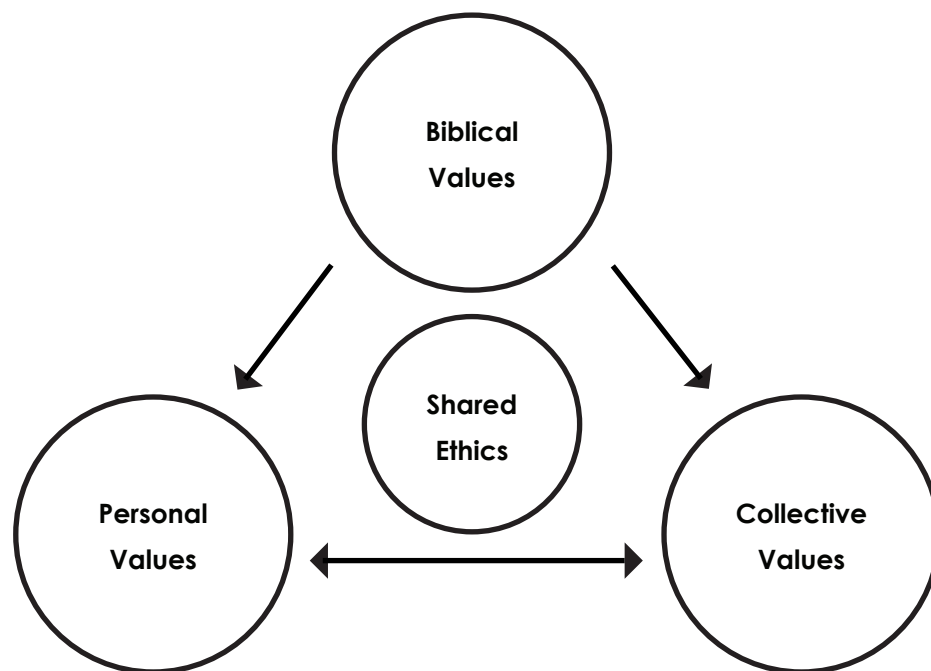
THE WORLDS WHERE I LIVE OUT MY VALUES AND ETHICS

Can I live with the same Values and Ethics in all my worlds? Many people act differently at home than they do at work. They have a tendency to let their environment determine their values and that moves them to behave one way in one environment and differently in another. As Christians we are to live lives of integrity, that means in public and in private, at work or at home we are the same person with the same values and the same behavior.



God's desire is that we form new values that will lead us to form a new code of conduct.

This process is called SANCTIFICATION.



It is critical in a church or home setting that our individual or personal values are shared with others. The root of many marriage conflicts goes back to a difference in values. At the church level this is the same, our personal values should be shared with the collective or whole and if that is the case a shared ethic is easy to obtain.



Personal evaluation:

Next month a retreat (for women or men) will be a time where you could grow spiritually and connect with the brothers in the church, but it means you have to spend a Friday afternoon or all day Saturday and you already have planned on playing football, or hang out with friends, etc ...

What will you do? Do you sacrifice your own time to invest in a time of spiritual growth?

You heard messages that told you to have a strong marriage, you need to invest the time and resources required. This means a sacrifice of your time and money. You'll have to spend less time at work / fishing / spending time doing what you want and spend time with your spouse weekly.

Will I Invest the time and resources?

Are you investing time and resources?

Principles that will help me to form Biblical Values

Matthew 22:37-40

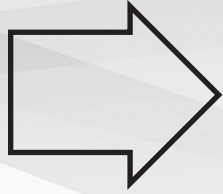
"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

1. We value God and His Word above all things (Deut. 10: 14-22, Luke 11: 27-28)
 - a. We value the authority of God and all authority established by Him in this world.(2 Chronicles 30: 8, 1 Peter 2: 13-23)
 - b. Value exclusive place of worship God in my life. (Exodus 20: 3, Deut. 5: 7)
 - c. Value truth over comfort. (2 Timothy 4: 1-5)
2. We value others as ourselves. (Romans 12:10, 13: 8-10, 1 John 3: 16-18, Philippians 2: 5-8.)
 - a. We value people over possessions. (Romans 12: 9-16, 15: 1-3)
 - b. We value integrity over reputation. (Gen. 39, Rev. 3: 1-6.)
 - c. We value our physical and spiritual family for personal gain. (Ephesians 5:25, 6: 4, 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12: 3-5.)



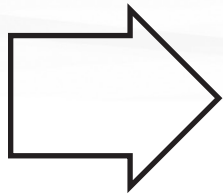
The Ten Commandments: The Ethical Code for Israel

Love **The Lord**



1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Love Your **Neighbor**

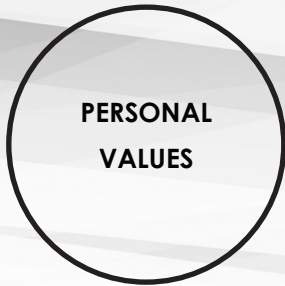


5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet

Biblical Principles to help me form my Code of Ethics:

1. It is a mistake to worship other gods or something created by the one True God. Exodus 20:3
2. It is wrong to covet what another man is or what he has. Exodus 20:17
3. It is a mistake to use my body for any perverse sexual activity as fornication or adultery. (1 Cor. 6: 18-20, Galatians 5: 19-21)
4. It is a mistake not to tell the truth. (Leviticus 19:11, Ephesians 4:15)
5. It is not right to divorce. Marriage must remain for a lifetime. (Malachi 2:16, Hebrews 13: 4)
6. It is wrong to disobey the authorities that God has placed on my life. (Romans 13: 1-7)
7. We must love our enemies and do not pay evil for evil. (Luke 6:27, Romans 12:19)
8. We must seek the good of others before us. (Mark 12:31, 2 Cor. 5:15)

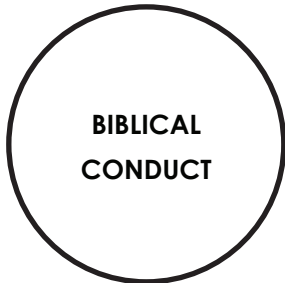
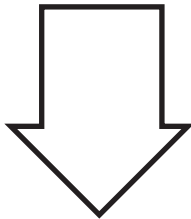




I value the authority of God on my life.
He is my Lord.



When I make decisions, I seek God's
truth always wanting His will for my life.



When I need to make a decision, I do not go
to my friends but to my God and His Word
and I value his advice over everything.

