

What Do You Care for the Most?

(Philippians 3:7-11)



How should Christians live according to biblical core values?

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1. We all live by core values knowingly or not.

- Core Values = Distinctive convictions that matter most to God and to you
- Core Values = the non-negotiables; personal life-principles; what you're passionate about; what you would die for (literally)
- Life purpose = What you do with your life, your mission in life
Core values = What you stand for, your non-negotiables
- e.g. Martin Luther King Jr. – human rights, racial equality

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e.g. Core Values = Love for God & love for people

Mark 12:29-31

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. ³¹ The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."

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e.g. Core value = Love for brothers & sisters in Christ

John 13:34-35

³⁴ "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

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Core values = What you stand for, your non-negotiables
- Write down & prioritize your core values and rank them
- Prioritize your activities & decision-making acc. to core values
- Write a clarifying statement for each core value

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e.g. BayLife Community Church's Core Values (with clarifying statements)

1. We Value Love that moves us to love and worship God, to serve Him and live for Him in Jesus Christ's grace and truth, and to be used by God to love others with His love

2. We Value Faith that humbles us to obey God's Word, submit to His sovereign will, trust in His faithfulness, and pray

3. We Value Holistic Discipleship that renews our minds with God's Word, develops Christ-like character in us, and promotes Christian fellowship among us

4. We Value Personal Evangelism that is ready, caring, and sound in biblical reasoning, and relies on the work of God

5. We Value Servant-Leadership that demonstrates humility, teamwork, and unity in Christ, that leads from God's Kingdom perspective, and multiplies itself

6. We Value Simplicity that inspires effective ministries, personal participation, and creative ideas

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1. We all live by core values knowingly or not.

2. We should redefine our Christian lives by biblical core values (Phil 3:7-11).

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Examples of biblical core values

e.g. Eph 5:15-16 Wisdom

¹⁵ Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

e.g. Prov 4:5-7 Wisdom

⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding;
don't forget or turn away from the words from my mouth.

⁶ Don't abandon wisdom, and she will watch over you;
love her, and she will guard you.

⁷ Wisdom is supreme—so get wisdom.
And whatever else you get, get understanding.

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e.g. 1Tim 4:8-9 Godliness

⁸ For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance.

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e.g. Psalm 8:3-5 Human life

³ When I observe your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you set in place,

⁴ what is a human being that you remember him,
a son of man that you look after him?

⁵ You made him little less than God
and crowned him with glory and honor.

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e.g. Eph 5:25-33 Marriage

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. ²⁷ He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰ since we are members of his body. ³¹ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ³² This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

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e.g. 2Tim 2:15 Teaching God's Word faithfully and correctly

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.

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Let Paul's top values for life to be our top values, too.

1. To gain Christ (Phil 3:7, 8b-9)

- Technically not a "core value" but simply the most valuable gain for a person's life
- To gain Christ, i.e. to be found in Christ (3:8b-9), means to receive Christ's salvation.
- To Paul, this was the most valuable gain for his life. In comparison, every achievement in his life was considered as dung. Also, he was willing to suffer the loss of all things, such as his power and fortune, his social status, his legalistic religious achievement, etc. (3:4-6), in exchange for being saved in Christ. I hope you value this just as much.

2. To know Christ (Phil 3:8a, 10-11)

- To Paul, this knowing Christ is to know Christ intimately through experience, not just head knowledge.
- He considered everything to be a loss in comparison to the surpassing value of knowing Christ this way (3:8a). This was his top core value in life.
- He was willing to "walk in the shoes of Christ" in order to experience what Christ experienced (3:10-11), e.g. eager to save souls, suffer rejection for the gospel's sake, ...

Phil 3:7-11

⁷ But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

- Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.
- ¹⁰ My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, ¹¹ assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

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Biblical core values are not there to make us
work for God's favor.

They are there to define who we are as sinners
living in God's grace
and treasuring our relationship with Christ in this world.

Therefore, let your biblical core values help you
redefine yourself and live for Christ.

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Sharing & Praying Together

- What are your non-negotiables (core values)?
Why are they so important to you?
- When you live by your core values, where will you be in 1-2 years regarding your character building, relationship with God, relationship with your family and others, physical health, education, personal goals, etc.?

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