

What are your values? Have you ever written them down? This week, Pastor Ron spoke about *values* in his sermon “From Value to Values,” which is Part 1 of the 6-part series “Vineyard Values.” A “value” can be defined as rating something according to its perceived worth, importance, or usefulness, while “values” are the accepted principles or standards of a person or of a group. People need values because, without a “moral anchor,” a person’s thoughts and actions are prone to changing with the winds. The Bible warns of this when it states “A double minded man is unstable in all he does.” James 1:8.

The media is a dominant influence of today’s worldly values of personal pleasure and personal prosperity. The message is that it’s OK as long as it doesn’t hurt anyone. However, Vineyard’s values are based on Biblical principles. The five core Vineyard Values are:

1. Kingdom Theology and Practice – We can experience the Kingdom of God here on Earth while also looking forward to the coming of the Eternal Kingdom.
2. Culturally Relevant Mission – We strive to relate to all cultures.
3. Compassionate Ministry – We minister to the lost and the outcast.
4. Reconciling Community – We reach out to the community.
5. Experiencing God – We can experience an intimate relationship with God and respond with obedience to Him.

Our core values determine what we value as a church family. At Vineyard Community Church, we hold the following important values:

1. **C**ourageous Problem Solving – We solve problems without complaining in a manner that honors God.
2. **B**iblical Conflict Resolution (**U**nderground) – We attempt to settle differences.
3. **T**eamwork – We work together toward a greater purpose.
4. **E**xcellence – We attempt to give our very best in all we do.

Values are determined by a world view, which in turn dictates behavior; e.g., a world view with its goal as “to die with the most toys” will instill values aimed at obtaining the most money. A goal like this results in a behavior that permits you to do anything necessary to obtain wealth. At Vineyard, we hold a world view supported by scripture, a mission of discipleship and evangelism. The Bible states, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19), and “He answered: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” Luke 10:27.

Pastor Ron tells of an old family violin that was passed down through the generations. Its value was strictly sentimental, until one day someone noticed that inside was the inscription “Stradivarius,” which is synonymous with superior quality. Suddenly, it was no longer “just an old fiddle.” It became a highly valued instrument displayed in a place of honor. Its value was restored, much the way Jesus restores our value when he sets us free from sin. Albert Einstein said, “The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not what he is able to receive.” What values are you modeling to the world?