

"BIBLICAL CORE VALUES THAT GUIDE CHRISTIANS AND GLORIFY GOD"

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-8

TEXT: VERSE 8

INTRO: **FROM THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE, TRUE BIBLE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS ARE TO MANIFEST AND REPRESENT JESUS CHRIST IN EVERY ASPECT OF THEIR LIVES.** That means, that those of us who know the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior should maintain Christ-like attitudes and actions, live in total obedience to the Word of God, and maintain convictions that are grounded in the Scriptures. In order to do that, it is essential that we maintain a set **BIBLICAL CORE VALUES**. Without **BIBLICAL CORE VALUES**, Christians will be **"TOSSED TO AND FRO BY EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE,"** which we see SO MUCH OF in today's **"CHRISTIAN CULTURE."** However, by maintaining **BIBLICAL CORE VALUES**, Christians will be able to honor and glorify God in every aspect of living. Therefore, today, we are going to study from the Word of God **BIBLICAL CORE VALUES THAT GUIDE CHRISTIANS AND GLORIFY GOD.**

OBSERVATION: Many businesses will either communicate their CORE VALUES to their workers or even post them in their buildings. For instance, the Hoss's Steak House publishes what they call **"VALUES WE LOVE."** They list those values as: EXCELLENCE, SERVICE TO OTHERS, TEAMWORK, SINCERITY, FRIENDLY, FUN, LEARNING, GROWTH AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.

OBSERVATION: Over 25 years ago, FBC established a set of **BIBLICAL CORE VALUES** to guide our ministry. Today, we are going to begin to RE-FOCUS on those **CORE VALUES** with the intent that each of us will engraft them into our personal lives and ministries so that they are reflected in every aspect of FBC LIFE.

I. THE DEFINITION OF CORE VALUES

NOTE: The Oxford Dictionary defines CORE VALUES AS: **"PRINCIPLES OR BELIEFS A PERSON OR ORGANIZATION VIEWS AS BEING OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE."**

A. Core Values for Christians extend from the TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST as expressed in the WORD OF GOD. These CORE VALUES are ESSENTIAL to our faith and shape who we are as individuals and a local church community.

B. Core Values are the **FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS, CONVICTIONS, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES THAT SHAPE OUR BEHAVIOR, ATTITUDES, DECISIONS, MINISTRY, WORK ETHIC AND RELATIONSHIPS.** They define WHO WE ARE!

C. Core Values are essential as they serve as our **COMPASS FOR LIVING.**

D. Core Values that effectively guide Christians MUST come directly from **SCRIPTURE, AND NOT FROM PERSONAL OPINIONS, PHILOSOPHIES, OR IDEAS.**

II. THE IDENTIFICATION OF CORE VALUES

NOTE: The CORE VALUES adopted by FBC 25 years ago come from Philippians 4:8. Dr. J. Vernon McGee said, **"THIS VERSE IS A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF JESUS CHRIST AND WHEN APPLIED TO OUR LIVES, ENABLES US TO BE LIKE CHRIST."**

NOTE: In identifying the terms of Philippians 4:8, let's accept them as our **SPIRITUAL PLEDGE OF INTEGRITY** for our personal life and ministry function. THE RESULT OF WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO BE **CHRIST-LIKE IN ALL THINGS!**

A. That which is True.

1. That which is TRUE is the Word of God – John 17:17

2. We must live our lives according to the **TRUTH of the WORD OF GOD**, which is a choice we must ALL MAKE – Psalm 119:30.

B. That which is Honest.

1. That which is HONORABLE.

2. We must maintain an **HONORABLE lifestyle** in relation to God and other
-Proverbs 22:1

C. That which is Just.

1. That which is RIGHTEOUS in character and in harmony with God

2. We must be in perfect harmony with God's **UNCHANGABLE STANDARDS**, as revealed in the scriptures – Philippians 1:11

D. That which is Pure.

1. That which is PURE AND CLEAN SPIRITUALLY (HOLY)

2. We must live a life **FREE FROM SIN** – 1 Peter 1:16

- E. That which is Lovely.
 - 1. That which is SWEET, PLEASING AND GENEROUS
 - 2. We must focus our thoughts and actions on what the Bible says is **PLEASING AND ATTRACTIVE TO GOD** and extend those qualities to others – Philippians 1:27
- F. That which is of Good Report
 - 1. That which is RESPECTABLE or WELL-SPOKEN OF by others.
 - 2. We must maintain a **GODLY TESTIMONY** before others
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7
- G. That which is of Virtue.
 - 1. That which maintains MORAL EXCELLENCE
 - 2. We must reflect the **CHARACTER OF CHRIST** in all things – Ephesians 5:1,2
- H. That which is Praise-Worthy
 - 1. That which acknowledges the WORK OF GOD
 - 2. We must **PRAISE GOD AND DRAW ATTENTION TO HIM** – Hebrews 13:15

III. THE APPLICATION OF CORE VALUES

“THINK ON THESE THINGS”

- A. A Command for All Believers
 - Not an option. It means more than just entertaining a thought. It means to evaluate, consider, calculate and to understand these things.
- B. A Constant Discipline for All Believers
 - An habitual discipline of the mind to set all of our thoughts on these things.

FACTS TO CONSIDER ON “THINKING BIBLICALLY”

- 1) Our **THINKING** will determine our **LIVING** – Proverbs 23:7
- 2) Our **SPIRITUAL STABILITY** is the result of our **THINKING** – Mark 7:20-23
- 3) God **COMMANDS US TO THINK** – Isaiah 1:18
- 4) We must think by means of a **RENEWED MIND** – Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23
- 5) Biblical thinking leads to **ABSOLUTE TRUTH** which is needed today when so much of even Christian Culture is based on feeling, emotion on truthlessness.