

What you believe or value influences what you do and what priorities you will have.



#### How do you find what's important to people—what they believe or value?

- Getting to know them (talking with them)
- Ask what they believe or value
- Study likes and dislikes
- Who and what do they surround themselves with
- Watch WHAT they are angry (upset, frustrated, etc.) about because no one gets angry about something they don't value
- Take things away from them
- What they defend?
- What do they make time for
- What they keep bringing up



#### Where or how do you collect what people believe or value?

- Need to be with them, be talking with them, willing to go to some perhaps awkward places in the conversation
- Get to know them
- Spend time with them and doing things (house)
- Be with them when they are under pressure—
- Need to be a space in your relationship or in your own worldview to look for beliefs and values (intentional, careful)
- You have to initiate if you will find what they believe or value (at least be around them)
- Have to be open yourself if you hope to care for another soul at belief/value level
- When people "trust" you with stuff, what do you do with it?



# From whom do you collect these things or allow others to collect from you?

- Perhaps start with those who are around you that it seems you might have something to offer
- Perhaps you went to learn about them and you find they are looking for your beliefs and values
- Titus –older woman teach younger woman, fathers teach sons
- Easiest place is in your own family— you know some of what they believe and value because of what they make you do or family's priorities — but do you know why
- Should go to those who value the things God values and who have some period of life to back it up
- Give it to people who seem to love God enough to feel very concerned about what they do with your soul sharing



# What makes it difficult to deal with people on the level of their beliefs and values?

- It's deep; hard to go deep; also, people believe things for certain reasons and if you question or seek to cross those beliefs, it can easily turn into attack on the person (offensive)
- How do you untangle their "wrong beliefs"
- Often gets tangled in your family values—
- Awkward with others—they back away
- Easy to make assumptions about why people have certain beliefs—
- So used to feel like we must defend our beliefs and values (seems like have-to-have armor on for these talks—defensive--)
- Often not good at listening-ask-questions looking for the next conversation—
- It is difficult to deal with others' beliefs and values if we don't even know our own
- Easy to see people JUST as collection of their beliefs and values—
- Other side is that people take the "easy" way and just agree
- Scared that don't know enough—
- Hard to start conversation when there might be disagreements



# What makes it difficult to deal with people on the level of their beliefs and values?

- When people get defensive and start targeting your beliefs
- If you know where the difference lies and it isn't something harmless, then we are afraid of what it will the relationship
- When it is completely opposite of what you believe
- It's hard to convince people that they are wrong
- If you are comfortable with the beliefs and values that you have, not too interested



Who/what is able to get away with talking about what you don't want to talk about or push you in a direction you don't want to go (ie. boring, awkward, disagree, think wrong)?

- IF it entertains you
- if someone is passionate about it
- If it's someone you care about
- If you can control a situation
- If you value the relationship enough that NOT including what you want to hear would harm the relationship
- If you think there is something beneficial for you
- Someone smooth enough to take you where you don't want to go
- If you don't know the topic well enough, you have little argument against it
- Lot easier if the person talking to you knows how you already fell about this and wants to open up the
  discussion rather than close it



Who/what is able to get away with talking about what you don't want to talk about or push you in a direction you don't want to go (ie. boring, awkward, disagree, think wrong) (CONTINUTED)?

If I think they care about me



# How far will you let friends you trust go in changing what you believe or value?

- Until it leads you away from God
- As long as I can still be ME
- As long as I can still pull back from a situation without getting hurt
- As long as I can fulfill a secondary value/motive—if parents say no, but want to stick it to your parents;
   if pleasing God makes you look good with others



# Do you think most people are excited about believing/valuing the same things as their parents? (Why/Why not?)

#### No:

- Supposed to be creative-how can you be creative if you believe the same thing
- Because people attack those who believe what their parents believe
- Because believe put into a belief rather than choose it
- Children can be more critical of parent's beliefs/values because you had to live inside those beliefs and values
- Parents are not cool, they are irrelevant
- Like Fiddler on the Roof—pushing to get out from under



# Do you think most people are excited about believing/valuing the same things as their parents? (Why/Why not?) (CONTINUED)

#### Yes/neutral:

- Depends on relationship with your parents
- Needs to figure out whether we are talking about Christian beliefs/values or not AND if agree that they are Christian beliefs and values
- IF you are a Christian and give Christian upbringing, then more likely to want to agree and further their beliefs and values—if not, then NO
- MOSTLY yes; even if don't agree with your parents, you still are more like them than you realize—easier to follow what you've been given than to wrestle on your own—can't do all on own
- It depends on the culture you are in and your age—USED to be given and honor to be exactly like your parents and continuing their trade as well as values—today INDEPENDENCE valued over ties
- Even in your own life, when younger, mostly happy to comply with family—when soon to exit house, decide they were wrong—later come back to some values
- Easier to like parent's ideas, but then when attacked or made fun of, then pull away because nothing under those beliefs and values
- IF the parents teach the children they WHY in an honorable way; otherwise, not have a clue when analyzed or taken apart by others; sometimes the parents don't know WHY
- Because if you want a head-start on life and your parents had anything together that was said, it is foolish to not build on top of that
- If willing to step up to defend beliefs/values of parents, then might have through and valued the WHY more than realize



#### Why important to sometimes obey without knowing why?

- In life-threatening emergencies
- When have God-given authority
- Military—times are trusting those over the group because there is a cause that is greater than your immediate agreement or understanding
- Bob Jones—had to sign handbook saying that would agree to be under it; therefore your word is at stake
- Need to follow God over parents but very cautiously—love and honor which includes obedience and respect more than you think even when they are not submitted to God themselves



Why should it concern us if we/others find ourselves very far from our parent's beliefs or values?



#### What is important in Mark 3:31-35?

- Those who follow God with you
- That we do the will of God
- THESE are the people that I care about, that are close with me, that I interact with
- Fitting inside of God's definition
- He asked them to rethink their beliefs and values and standard by which they came up with their beliefs and values
- Disregarded blood and physical ties (name and family bond) and lifted up another set of beliefs and values



#### Why is what Jesus says in Mark 3:31-35 so shocking?

- Jesus doesn't immediately go to his mother/brothers
- Kind of distances Himself from REAL mother/brothers and ADOPTS another group
- Seems like rejecting those He should be closest to
- Seems like taking something so obvious and twisting it—EVEN if it has a point, WHY?
- On the other side, perhaps someone else felt honored, loved, accepted;
- Do you mean that if I don't believe you or listen to you, that I'm not your family?



What SHOULD our natural response be toward our parents and brothers/sisters? Why?



What keeps us from that close tie with family? Why do they often get our rough side?



How do you weigh out whether the pain, frustration, or annoyance factor is worth it with family/others?



So if you were going to really listen to someone who has different priorities than you, different actions/use of their time, what would you have to be willing to consider?

B



How is the focus/values of Mark 3:31-35 different than where we focus—even different then the focus we hear from other professing Christians?



What would be needed to continue THIS closely with Jesus? Who would do the will of God?



What do you see in Mk. 3:20-21 about Jesus' family members?



What does Matthew 6:19-24 make very clear?

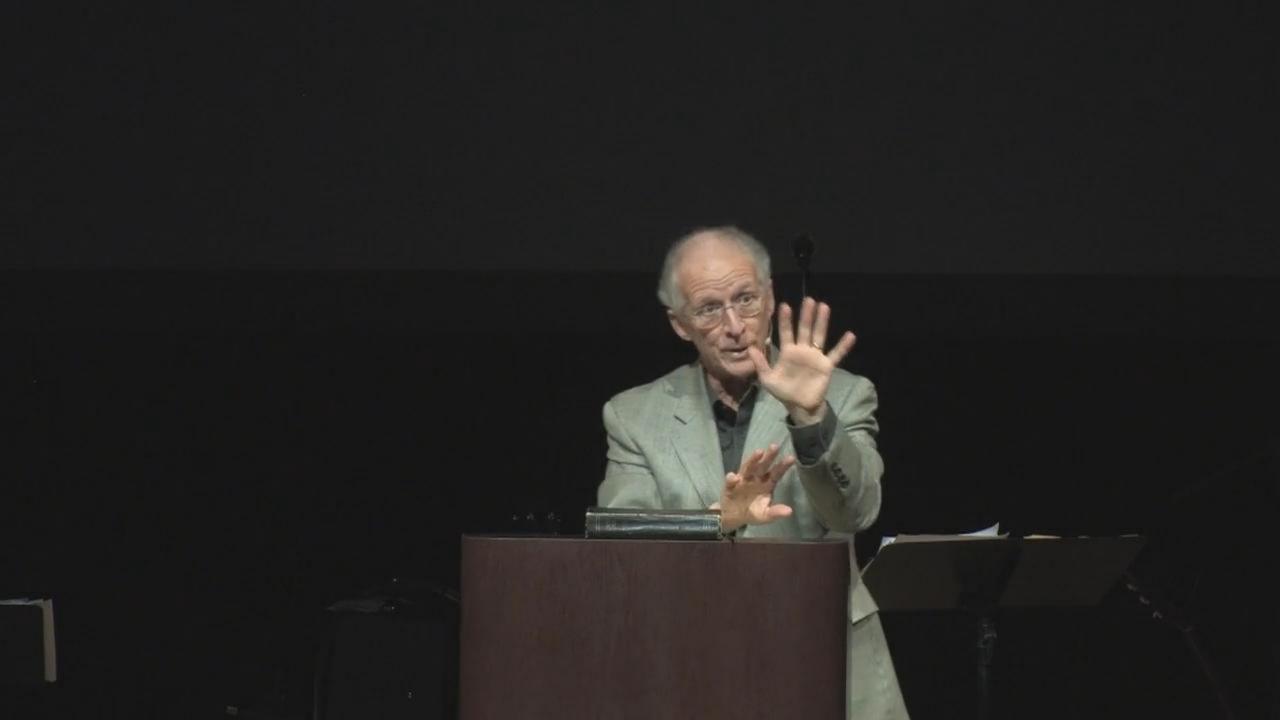


Who would value these clear statements?

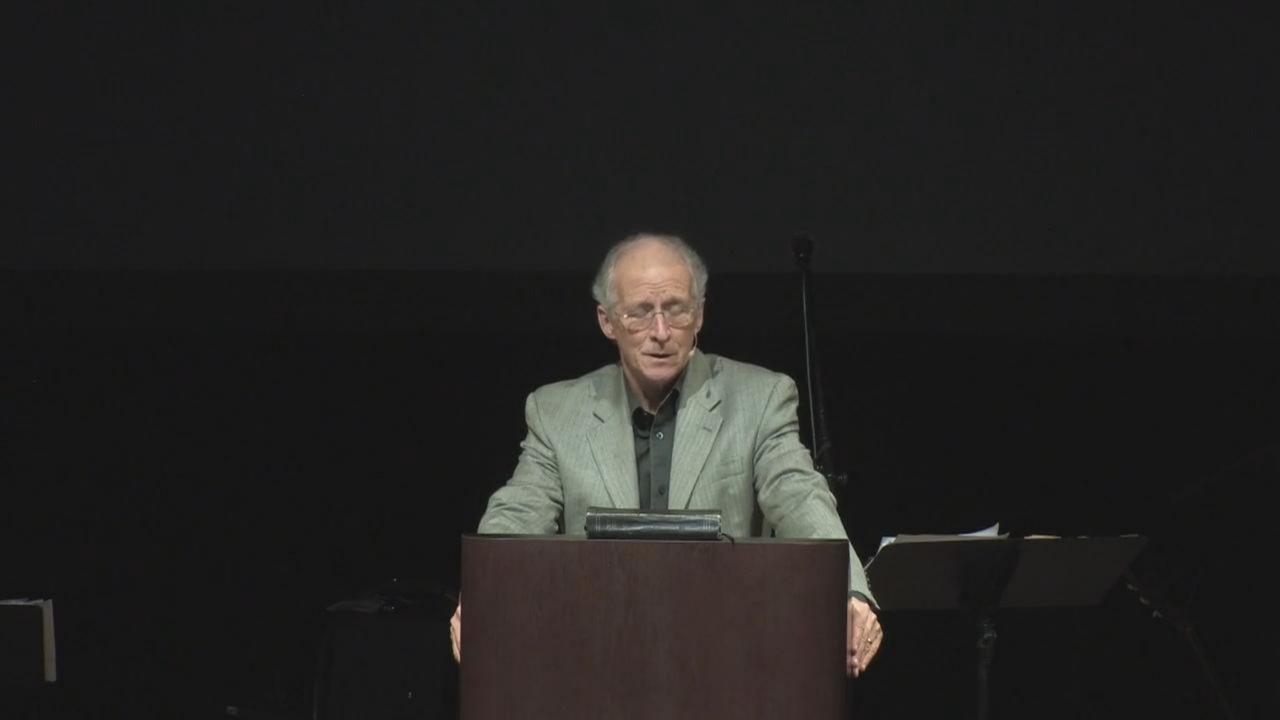


Our passages have changed our focus from us, our friends, and other influences INCLUDING God's intended closest influencers to a greater influence—relationship with God. Who would care about, value, and treasure this relationship?





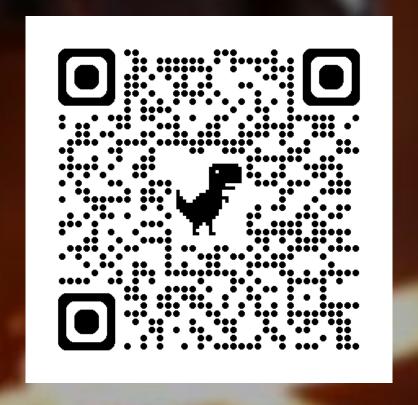
What are the four Implications John Piper references?



Summary: What are your thoughts? How does this relate to our latest theme "What you believe or value influence what you do and what priorities you will have"?

# Burn with White-Hot Affection Until We See Him

John Piper at The Gospel Coalition New England 2012 Conference, Boston MA, October 20th



Scan the QR code to watch the video again or read the transcript

https://www.dociringgod.org/moccogos/ahlazo

From February 5, 2025, The Briefing: What is important to a growing number of 20-30 year olds that was different than in the past? How did it happen?

В



How does this value show itself and what are some of the things that perhaps are unintended consequences of these values being the most important?

В



What would have to change for people thinking like this to change their minds?

B



#### Who will they let influence them?

