

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



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

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 ahead-start on life and your parents had anything together that was soid, 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 should it concern us if we/others find ourselves very far from our parent's beliefs or values?

- Because somewhat natural to at least be in the same ballpark as parents
- Many of these beliefs/values have been tried/tested—we often abandon them without much thought
- Should be concerned that we are easily changing core beliefs/values OR we are so stubborn/selfcentered that overconfident with our own thoughts
- No way to honor God's Word and treat their beliefs/values lightly
- Brought up with these beliefs/values, they should be embedded in all of your life
- If parents are Christians, their main beliefs and values should be centered around God making very concerning if you toss them to the side very quickly
- Nature/nurture—parents have a great influence on who you become—if you can't be in ballpark of that, there are foundational issues



If you are very far from your parents beliefs and values, where are you?

- Perhaps rebellious, disrespectful
- Where YOU think is right; you are pioneering; cutting own path, could possibly making yourself your
 own authority and possibly trusting a heart that hasn't been tested
- Moving toward someone else's values/beliefs or at least another set of beliefs and values
- Either very far from the truth, or very var from lies
- Away from where you started
- Not considering anymore if there is merit in your parent's beliefs/values
- Thought and sacrifice to get to that place where you now are
- Now in opposition to their beliefs/values
- The farther you are from living with them or in their environment, the harder it is to maintain the same beliefs and values



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

• Love—concern, patient, kind, never quits, honor, respect, give freedom to flourish, put them first, take ownership of them (these are my people), recognize that there is more than what you see when you think you got little, should want to protect their honor; you should care for their soul; share affection



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

- Our beliefs and values differ
- Little annoyances are often hard to overlook
- Most secure relationship you have because always will be your family therefore feel free/most comfortable saying what you think, doing what you want, feeling how you feel and they get the brunt of it
- With siblings, insecurity/pride makes us stay away from what they do better than us and doing what
 we think makes us better than them
- Might not want to be associated with them or their beliefs/values
- Irreconcilable differences come from not dealing with issues when they were small
- When forced to be around family, then all comes out
- Age separation, easy to feel very far apart with desires and abilities—too much work
- Since they are close, they can see us as we really are
- If you are going to be that close to me, you need to see how I respond

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

- So much fear of man outside, at home let it go
- Rough side comes out when you need to process things need space
- Easy to see home life as starting block for life need to push off from, leave in order to have life if they fit in with YOUR life, great, if NOT, they need to let go
- Sometimes you don't care what family thinks of you as much as what THEY think about you
- Sometimes you think they are family, so you can say anything and they will still have to accept you



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

- They have already seen us when we didn't understand, why should it change
- We have dirt on each other... BECAUSE it is so hared to work through things with them therefore want to deal with people outside of your close family
- When at home for extended periods of time, those around get your test treatment on how justice and mercy, love and care should be lived
- You believe they HAVE to deal with you because you are part of their family
- Because people afraid of dealing with things because it might blow up
- Disagreeing about who knows what and should do what in the home—pride
- You think your reputation with them is not as important as reputation with those outside your family
- If parents aren't as close and unified with each other and with common purpose and identity
- It takes so much work to invest in each other when we feel we are so busy/tired with other things
- Different believes/values when it comes to relationship with God



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

- Considering God's sovereignty and providence in putting you with these people in this painful situation
- Comparing your life with others and then deciding I'd rather deal with these people than those
- By waiting for THAT day when I don't have to anymore
- How often is it painful, frustrating, annoying if more often, less likely to deal with it
- If you value deep and strong relationships that last, you will endure much
- By being proud of being the only one who can/does
- Determining whether going through it together, or whether they are the cause of it
- Loyalty when everyone else quits, they have my back they will still be there
- When I've hit my limit boundaries, toxic, protections, barriers



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

- If you value character, will value the people and situations that God brings into your life to test
- You will not last long if you are "counting the days" to when you are "out"
- It MUST be done Coram Deo (in the face of God)—what does your prayer life say about your relationship with God?
- Because you don't know how long you have with them and don't know if you'll have another chance, then be willing to try harder/longer/dig deeper/ pray more because the characteristics we say we SHOULD have with our families are ones that come from God and are NOT options
- What is the basis of your relationship with them? They are still a soul—what is your responsibility to another soul
- Must remember how hard it is to start again to establish a new moral code



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

- If care to grow yourself under God, it will include turning TOWARD these things with others (prayer and sometimes hard talks with attitude of humility)
- No relationships without hard work; it WILL include these things; make sure seeking cause of pain/frustration carefully including humbly recognizing when you have caused it—must care about a higher kingdom
- They are a soul (they have feelings, worth), where should relationships head? Are you willing to look on the other side of pain?



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?

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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?

- How they got there listen to the whole backstory
- You need to consider that you might possibly be wrong
- What are their reasons?
- That they are convinced they have something to say because they are right
- Try to fit in their shoes what would need to change for you to believe what they are saying this should make you analyze what YOU believe
- You need to know clearly about what you want to know about their values/beliefs



These are some tricky questions as for some people, it is the best thing in the world for to have different values and beliefs than their parents. However, having different beliefs with parents creates quite a bit of tension. Suddenly, thinking about beliefs and values and how it affects relationships with other people including family and friends becomes pretty important. We need God's final word to handle all these messy and sometimes scary thoughts. Our passage yesterday in John 3 talked about the connection between belief and obedience, making sobering remarks about eternal life and the wrath of God. Matthew 22 called for us to look at all God's laws through one great commandment, loving God with all our being. Those who do this will then love others in line with our love for God.

No matter how much we are right in assessing the others in our family as part of the problem, we are often slow to see how much work is truly involved with loving and honoring those closest to us. Honoring takes even more effort than obedience as it requires us to think beyond our immediate thoughts about what we've been asked to do and about the tensions in our homes. Honoring involves looking from another's perspective, which means we need to study the other person to honor them. Then we would need to interact with that person in line with what we've studied and see if we are still missing something.



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How do these thoughts fit with the focus/value of Mark 3:31-35?



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How is the focus/values of Mark 3:31-35 different than where we focus when we think of "being a Christian" or "following Jesus" and perhaps even different than the focus we hear from other professing Christians?

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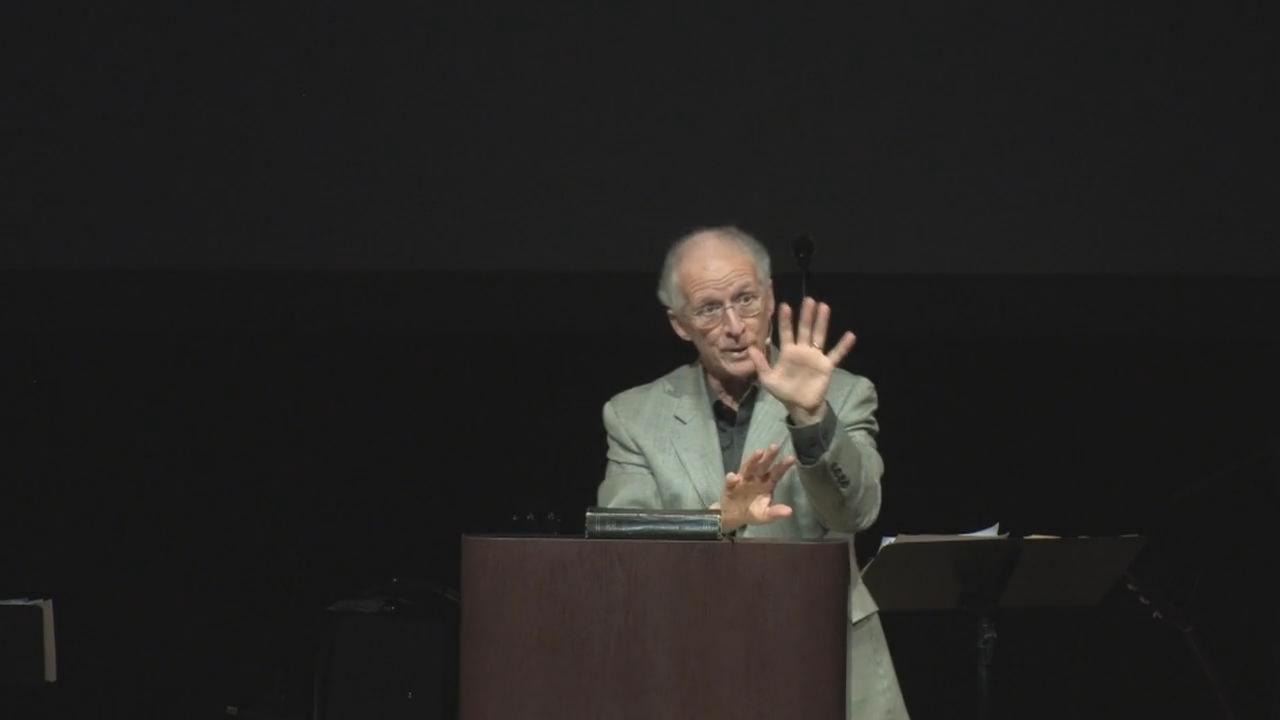
What would be needed to continue as closely with Jesus as He calls for in Mark 3:31-35?

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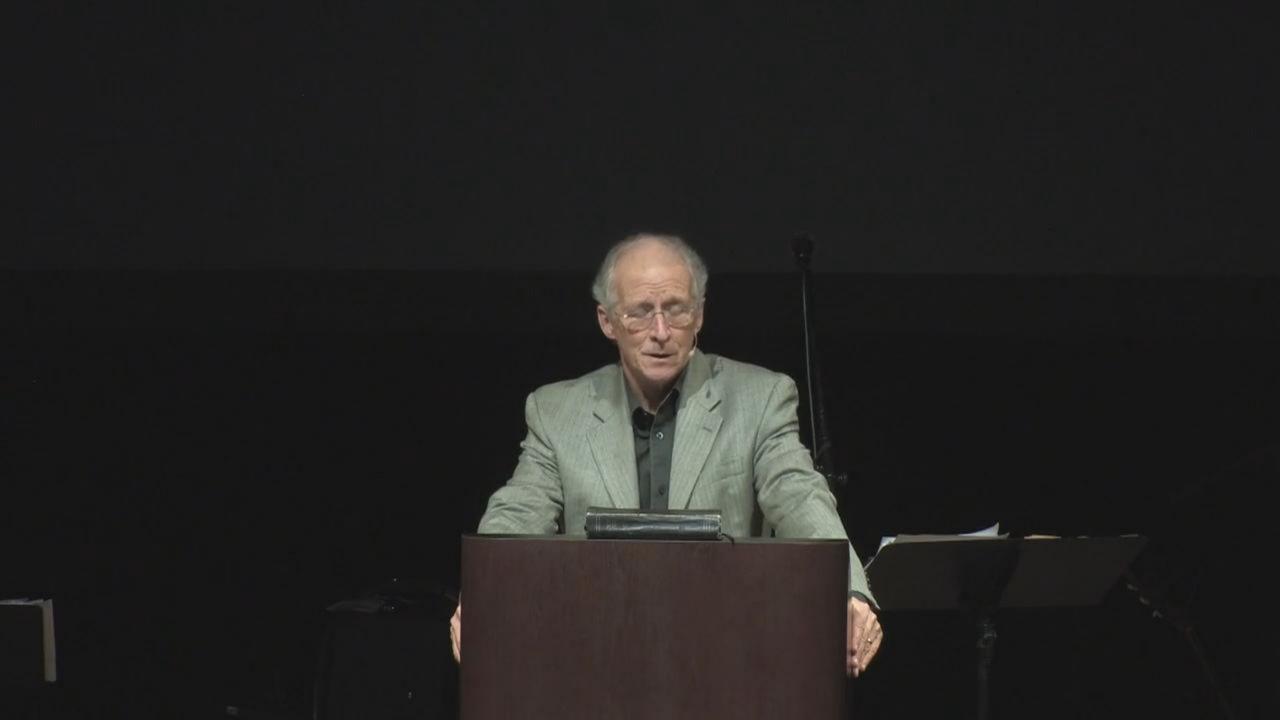


Our passages have changed our focus from us, our friends, and other influences INCLUDING God's intended closest influencers to a greater influence—relationship with God. Who would care about, value, and treasure this relationship?





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"?

What does Matthew 6:19-24 make very clear? How does it fit with our statement about "what you believe or value . . . "?



What stands out from I Peter 4:1-5?



What determines a good church? If you had to list a couple of core values, what would they be?



From where do these categories come?



What would make someone be part of a church that didn't meet what was important to them or what they value?

