

6 DEVELOPING VALUES: SEEKING TRANSFORMATION

A. Introduction

The development of Godly values requires not only the knowledge of what we ought to be and do, but also the courage and strength to do it. Mere intellectual assent, probably to statements of belief, is not enough. This is what both John the Baptist and the apostle Paul confronted their audiences about. In matters of corruption, just as in other moral issues, many people fail, not because they don't know what to do, but because there is a gap between what they know they ought to do and what they actually end up doing. It is therefore important, as we reflect on the development of values, to turn our attention to the question of transformation, which is the only way to ensure that we live out the values we know and admire.



B. A Call to Change: Luke 3:1-14

1. Identify the different categories of people John addressed and what he said to each of them.
2. From these instructions, identify the values John was advocating for.
3. If John were to address us today, in what areas do you think he would call on us to change as individuals, church and society?

C. A Changed Life: Ephesians 4:17-32

1. What instructions does Paul give to the Ephesians in this passage?
2. a. Paul implies that the people already knew the truth on how to conduct themselves, why do you think he found it necessary to still give these instructions?
b. Identify the values advocated in this passage.
3. a. How does the presence and/or absence of these values relate to corruption in society?

- b. To what extent could you say that these values are evident in your life?
- c. If any are lacking, why is this so and what will you do to develop them?

D. Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:2-24

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

E. Point of Reflection

In what areas of your life would you say that God has transformed you? Spend sometime to thank Him for this and also to pray for his help in the areas you identified in questions 3 (b) and (c) in this chapter?

Additional Passages

Hebrews 12:1-17, John 3:1-21.