

## LIFE AND VALUES: EVERYONE MATTERS

Scripture used: Psalms 113:5-9 (NLT)

### OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon kicked us off on a seven-part series on “The Life You Want; The Values You Need”. Our lives are shaped by our values. Each person / household / family should have three or four rock-solid values to live by, which guide what we will do and won't do. The Golden State Warriors emphasize: competition, compassion, mindfulness, and togetherness. They perform well when they abide by at least three of these values. Pastor Hurmon has tried to live with humility, generosity, love, and faithfulness. Honesty and integrity are also great guiding values.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **God's #1 value is that everyone matters.** Our value indicators shed light on where we spend our time, treasure, and talents; and what people we admire and why. God is our sovereign King, yet He uses His power and mercy in intimate ways. Ephesians 1:19-23 reminds us that He is the mighty power who raised Christ from the dead. Colossians 1:15 tells us that Christ is the visible image of God. God looks past the power structures to go right to the poor and the needy. His intention is to see the invisible, the undervalued, the sinner. Is that part of our own daily routine? Do you pass by / overlook janitors, cafeteria workers, minimum-wage laborers? Pastor Hurmon told us the story of parishioners who worked at Google and Apple and realized they did not even know the name and place of origin of humble workers who had served them every day for the past five years. Why does the way people perceive us (powerful, aloof, busy) become the way we view ourselves?
- 2) **Love is action, not just emotion.** The imperative to love our neighbor means loving everyone, even if we don't like what they stand for. It's an affirmative action. Love can even be hard in families when we resent family members' character flaws, bad habits, and politics. God wants us to show kindness and respect to people with different stories than ours, and speak truth to our loved ones when they drift and err. Anger, self-pity, demonization of others are the enemy!
- 3) **God's love lifts, raises, redeems.** Ephesians 2:4-6 tells us that God raises us to unite us with Jesus. God's love reveals the value in each human being: the prince in the junk heap; the royalty in the trash.
- 4) **This does not mean that everyone's always right;** that actions don't have consequences; and that we must become co-dependent. But it means recalibrating our lives so our *neighbors* are always recognized & celebrated.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Discern your heart. Where have you drifted in terms of seeing yourself as superior, above the fray, and oblivious to your next-door neighbor (literally and figuratively)?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - What are your top 4 guiding values, and how are they aligned how you invest your time, money, and emotionally & intellectual energy?
- 3) **DO** - Write your values and draw a plan to live by them. Find actionable ways to affirm the poor and the needy in your life.