

Values and Attitudes

Some Values & Attitudes of Jesus

Jesus invites us to a life of self-giving. He commissioned the apostles to, **“Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations . . .”** Matthew 28:19. He said disciples – not followers. Being a disciple requires discipline. We are to be disciples who follow Jesus in a committed way. Not just as followers who are going along with crowd. **“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me’”** Matthew 16:24.

Self-denial takes discipline. Discipline leads to freedom. Freedom is the ability to act at will, not under compulsion or restraint. Thus it is the strength of character to do to do what is good, true, noble, and right.

Love is the heart of Jesus’ teaching. In order to love, one must be free. Loving another means to give oneself freely and without reservation. To give one’s self, one must be free to give it.

Jesus affirmed the dignity and worth of the human person through his life and teaching.

*The above is a beginning. **What would you add about the values and attitudes of Jesus?***

Some Values & Attitudes in Conflict with the Teaching of Jesus

Ultimate concern for self in which decisions are based on “What’s in it for me?”

- Weakens the group and causes the whole to suffer.
- Leads to greed, selfishness, and exploitation.

Assertion that pleasure is the supreme good. Pleasure is seen as the ultimate goal and aim of life.

- “If it feels good, do it”.
- Leads to laziness, lust, gluttony, and the enslavement of addictions.

Desire to exert the minimum effort and receive the maximum reward.

- “What is the least I can do and still . . . (some benefit).
- Leads to mediocrity.

Lack of respect for the dignity and value of the human person.

What else would you add to this list?

The teaching authority of the Church lies in the teaching office of the pope, and bishops in communion with him, guided by the Holy Spirit. Thus the pope and bishops are the authoritative teachers in the Church. Their teaching role involves applying the principles of the Gospel to current issues. One of the ways this teaching is communicated to us in Michigan is through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC).

In preparation for either Baptism or the Renewal of our Baptismal Promises at Easter, take some time for serious prayer and reflection about your life now. ***How do your values and attitudes line up with those of Jesus? What in you is strong, upright, and good that you want the Holy Spirit to continue strengthening in you? What needs forgiveness and healing?*** Pray to open your heart to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

