

## SKILLS FOR SUCCESS #2 – BUILD YOUR LIFE ON VALUES THAT LAST

*Sermon by Todd Lester*

*April 2, 2017*

1 Corinthians 6:12 “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful.

1. u\_\_\_\_\_ values create c\_\_\_\_\_
2. c\_\_\_\_\_ values create t\_\_\_\_\_
3. f\_\_\_\_\_ values create d\_\_\_\_\_
4. u\_\_\_\_\_ values create d\_\_\_\_\_

### FOUR QUESTIONS THAT WILL DETERMINE MY VALUES AND MY DESTINY:

#### 1. WHO'S GOING TO BE MY \_\_\_\_\_?

Three Options:

i. \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 17:9, Proverb 16:25, Proverbs 3:5

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 2:15-16

World values: \_\_\_\_\_ good, \_\_\_\_\_ good, \_\_\_\_\_ goods

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

John 8:31-32, 1 Samuel 16:7, Hebrews 11:25b, Luke 12:15b

#### 2. WHAT'S GOING TO \_\_\_\_\_?

1 John 2:17, 2 Corinthians 4:18

Temptation: not just between r\_\_\_\_\_ & w\_\_\_\_\_, but between n\_\_\_\_\_ & l\_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. WILL I CHOOSE WHAT'S \_\_\_\_\_ OR WHAT'S \_\_\_\_\_?

Psalms 119:37a

#### 4. IS IT \_\_\_\_\_?

Matthew 16:26, Luke 16:15, Mark 10:31

Real success = living by the \_\_\_\_\_ that God will \_\_\_\_\_ some day

## Logo/Slogan Matchup

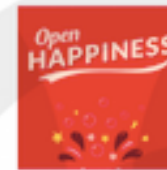
Advertisers want to sell us their version of the ‘good life’ but 1 John 2:15-16 reminds us to beware of this world. How many of these ads can you recognize? Try matching the logo/slogan with the correct product.

Coca Cola  
Google  
Citroen  
McDonalds

Adidas  
Walt Disney  
Blackberry  
IBM

Pizza Hut  
Dove  
Chanel  
BIC

Microsoft  
Red Bull  
IKEA  
Volkswagen



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Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV) If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.

1 Corinthians 6:12 “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful.

1. unclear values create confusion
2. conflicting values create tension
3. false values create deception
4. unhealthy values create dysfunction

### FOUR QUESTIONS THAT WILL DETERMINE MY VALUES AND MY DESTINY:

#### 1. WHO'S GOING TO BE MY AUTHORITY?

Three Options:

##### i. MYSELF

Jeremiah 17:9 The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

Proverb 16:25 There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

##### ii. THE WORLD

1 John 2:15-16 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.

These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

World values: looking good, feeling good, having the goods

##### iii. JESUS

John 8:31-32 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

1 Samuel 16:7 The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Hebrews 11:25b ... the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Luke 12:15b Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

#### 2. WHAT'S GOING TO LAST THE LONGEST?

1 John 2:17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Temptation: not just between right & wrong, but between now & later

#### 3. WILL I CHOOSE WHAT'S EASY OR WHAT'S BEST?

Psalm 119:37a Turn my eyes from worthless things...

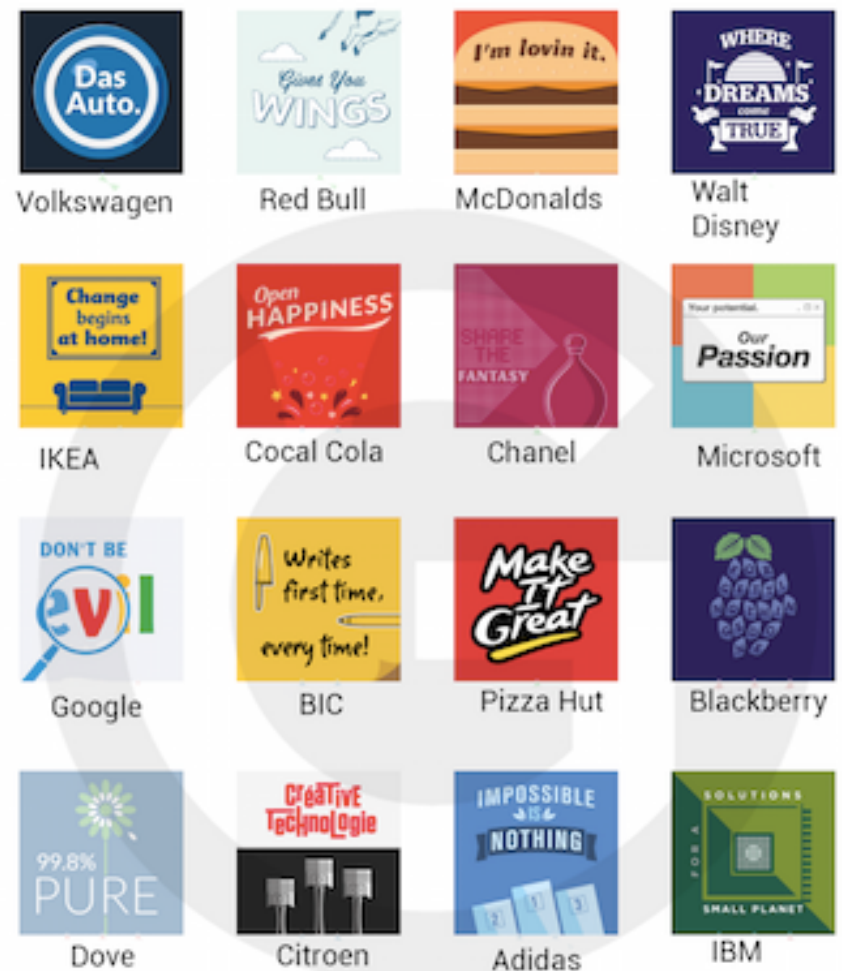
#### 4. IS IT WORTH THE PRICE?

Matthew 16:26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

Luke 16:15 What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.

Mark 10:31 But many who are the greatest now will be least important then.

Real success = living by the values that God will reward some day



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## Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'Logo/Slogan Matchup' activity comes out of Todd's points about advertizers wanting to sell us something and focusing on 'looking good, feeling good, and having the goods'. Give a few minutes for participants to try to match up the companies with their logos/slogans and then take the answers up together (answers on Scriptures page).

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Where do you think that most people get their values?

Read and discuss [1 Corinthians 6:12](#).

Discuss Todd's statement that God won't force you to do anything in your life.

Todd said that successful people recognize what is important in life. Think of some successful people and what they would consider important. Consider the world's definition of success and what might be deemed important (eg. a businessman and cutthroat decisions, an actor sacrificing family for career)

1. unclear values create confusion

2. conflicting values create tension

3. false values create deception

4. unhealthy values create dysfunction

## FOUR QUESTIONS THAT WILL DETERMINE MY VALUES AND MY DESTINY:

### 1. WHO'S GOING TO BE MY AUTHORITY?

Would you agree with Todd's statement that this is a fundamental question of life? Do you think people spend much time considering it?

#### i. MYSELF

Focuses on [Jeremiah 17:9](#), [Proverb 16:25](#), [Proverbs 3:5](#)

Do you agree with the idea that our perceptions are more often wrong than right? Can you think of examples of this from your own life?

Discuss Todd's statement that 'my perceptions say more about me than others'.

What is the relationship between our heart and our mind? (in quoting Jer.17:9 [which speaks of our heart] Todd talked about how our mind will mislead us in the wrong direction, in Prov. 3:5 it speaks of our heart and understanding)

#### ii. THE WORLD

Focuses on [1 John 2:15-16](#)

World values: looking good, feeling good, having the goods

In what ways do Christians sometimes get seduced by these (3) values? Do you think one is more prevalent in today's society?

Which of these 3 values do you find the most challenging to resist?

Todd stated that the world's values will let you down every time. What are some of those values that would result in this?

#### iii. JESUS

Focuses on [John 8:31-32](#), [1 Samuel 16:7](#), [Hebrews 11:25b](#), [Luke 12:15b](#)

Todd said that we come to church to realign our values to Jesus and His teachings. How does that work/happen? Can you think of other ways to accomplish this?

### 2. WHAT'S GOING TO LAST THE LONGEST?

Focuses on [1 John 2:17](#), [2 Corinthians 4:18](#)

Temptation: not just between right & wrong, but between now & later

What were the kind of questions that Todd said we will ask ourselves when we encounter crisis/pain/tragedy? (Is this really what life is about? Where am I headed? Am I really seeing things correctly?) When have you experienced this in your life?

Discuss Todd's statement that 'a big weakness with our society is short-term thinking'. If all that matters is the 'here and now' then what are we missing?

### 3. WILL I CHOOSE WHAT'S EASY OR WHAT'S BEST?

Focuses on [Psalm 119:37a](#)

Todd said that studies have shown that the #1 cause of stress is what? – incongruent values/lifestyle, that is, not living what you believe. Does this make sense? Have you experienced this?

Todd asserted that to live for Christ is not easy, yet we read in [Matthew 11:30](#) that Jesus says his yoke is easy. How can we explain that?

Were you surprised by the statistic that by age 65 the average person has watched 9.5 years of TV? Does it make you think about reevaluating how much media you take in?

### 4. IS IT WORTH THE PRICE?

Focuses on [Matthew 16:26](#), [Luke 16:15](#), [Mark 10:31](#)

Real success = living by the values that God will reward some day

Consider examples of famous people who have 'gained the whole world' (or at least notoriety). What kinds of things did they lose in the process? Could you say they lost their soul?

Todd pointed out that you can't follow Jesus without a shift in your values. Did that happen for you? Is this more true of those who have a conversion experience? What about for those who grow into their faith? (were the values taught at home lined up with God's?)

Read and discuss [Luke 16:15](#). What does this world honour? Does 'detestable' seem like strong language? How does considering the context of this verse change your understanding? – Jesus is talking to religious people!