

CHOOSING MY STANDARD

Building My Life on Values That Last
Rick Warren

Where Have All the Values Gone?

- Politics
- Business
- Entertainment
- Education
- Religion

1. THE CAUSE: _____

3 DESTRUCTIVE PHILOSOPHIES:

1. _____
"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes." Judges 21:25 (NLT)
2. _____
"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served and created things rather than the Creator." Romans 1:25 (NIV)
3. _____
"It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere."

"There are no absolute truths."

"They are hopelessly confused . . . Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far away from the life of God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him." Ephesians 4:17-19 (NLT)

2. THE COST: _____

- "Where there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild." Proverbs 29:18 (TLB)
- "What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark." Isaiah 5:20 (TLB)
- "A nation without God's guidance is a nation without order."
Proverbs 29:18 (GNT)
- "When the foundations of life are undermined, what can a righteous person do?"
Psalm 11:3 (GW)

3. THE CURE: _____

"He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time." Proverbs 2:9 (TLB)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

"Your words are a flashlight to light the path ahead of me and keep me from stumbling." Psalm 119:105 (TLB)

"Those who listen to God's instruction will prosper; those who trust the Lord will be joyful." Proverbs 16:20 (NLT)

A CHOICE: MY STANDARD WILL BE

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ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

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Three Foes of Personal Responsibility

- The 'rights' mentality: "I demand my rights."
- The 'victim' mentality: "It's not my fault."
- The 'entitlement' mentality: "I deserve it."

"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do." Ephesians 5:15 (PHILLIPS)

1. WHY LIVE RESPONSIBLY?

- **BECAUSE** _____ **MY LIFE**
"Nothing in all the world can be hidden from God. Everything is clear and lies open before him, and to him we must explain the way we have lived."
Hebrews 4:13 (NCV)

"Each of us will have to give a personal account to God."
Romans 14:12 (NLT)
- **BECAUSE** _____ **BY MY LIFE**
"People should be concerned about others and not just about themselves."
1 Corinthians 10:24 (GW)
- **BECAUSE** _____
"You will experience all God's blessings if you obey the Lord."
Deuteronomy 28:2 (NCV)

"To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given."
Matthew 25:29 (NLT)

2. HOW CAN I BE A MORE RESPONSIBLE PERSON?

1. **BY** _____
"The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets." Proverbs 21:20 (TLB)

"A fool thinks only about having a good time." Ecclesiastes 7:4 (NLT)
2. **BY** _____
"A fool expresses all his emotions, but a wise person controls them."
Proverbs 29:11 (GW)

"People will be responsible for every careless word they have said."
Matthew 12:36 (NCV)

"Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."
Romans 12:21 (NLT)

3. **BY** _____
"A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash."
Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

4. **BY** _____
"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance."
Proverbs 28:13 (TLB)

"Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame!"
Hosea 4:4 (NLT)

"All fall short . . . yet now God declared us 'not guilty' of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins."
Romans 3:23-24 (TLB)

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DEVELOPING TRUST

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Rick Warren

Anything I trust or value more than God is an idol.

"For your own good . . . do not sin by making for yourselves an idol in any form."
Deuteronomy 4:15-16 (GNT)

1. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TRUST ANYTHING ELSE MORE THAN GOD?

1. **I AM** _____
"Those who make idols are disillusioned." Jeremiah 10:14 (GNT)
- "Of what value is an idol carved by a craftsman? . . . For the one who makes it trusts in his own creation."* Habakkuk 2:18 (NIV)
- "The poor, deluded fool feeds on ashes. He trusts something that can't help him at all . . . Yet he cannot bring himself to ask, 'Is this idol . . . a lie?'"*
Isaiah 44:20 (NLT)

2. **I AM** _____
"You were led astray in many ways to the worship of lifeless idols."
1 Corinthians 12:2 (GNT)
- "Those who make idols end up like them. So does everyone who trusts them."*
Psalm 115:8 (GW)

2. WHY DON'T I TRUST GOD MORE?

1. **BECAUSE I DON'T** _____
"Those who know the Lord trust him." Psalm 9:10 (NCV)

3. WHY SHOULD I TRUST GOD COMPLETELY?

1. **BECAUSE** _____
"We can completely count on, for it is impossible for God to lie."
Hebrews 6:18 (TLB)
- "God will continue to be true even when every person is false."*
Romans 3:4 (NCV)

2. **BECAUSE** _____
"We know the love that God has for us, and we trust that love . . . because God's perfect love drives out fear." 1 John 4:16, 18 (NCV)

3. **BECAUSE** _____
"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."
Romans 8:28 (NLT)

4. **BECAUSE** _____
"Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success."
Proverbs 3:5-6 (NCV)

Jesus says: "Don't be afraid. Just have faith." Mark 5:36 (NLT)

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DEVELOPING SELF-CONTROL

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"A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls."
Proverbs 25:28 (NLT)

CONTROLLING MY ANGER

1. _____ **TO CONTROL IT**
"A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back."
Proverbs 29:11 (ESV)

2. _____ **THE COST**
"A hot-tempered man . . . gets into all kinds of trouble." Proverbs 29:22 (TLB)
"Hot tempers cause arguments." Proverbs 15:18 (GNT)
"Anger causes mistakes." Proverbs 14:29 (TLB)
"People with a hot temper do foolish things." Proverbs 14:17 (GNT)
"The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left." Proverbs 11:29 (TLB)

3. _____ **MY MOUTH**
"Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble."
Proverbs 21:23 (NLT)
"Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19 (NIV)

4. _____ **BEFORE REACTING**
"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise person holds it in check."
Proverbs 29:11 (CSB)
"A person's wisdom yields patience." Proverbs 19:11 (NIV)

Ask myself: _____

5. _____ **MY ANGER APPROPRIATELY**
"If you become angry, do not let your anger lead you into sin."
Ephesians 4:26 (GNT)

"Don't befriend angry people or associated with hot-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them." Proverbs 22:24-25 (NLT)

6. _____ **GOOD FOR EVIL**
"Never pay back evil for evil with more evil . . . never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God . . . Don't let evil conquer you."
Romans 12:17-21 (NLT)

7. _____ **GOD'S HELP**
"Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say."
Psalm 141:3 (NCV)
"Whatever is in your heart determines what you say." Matthew 12:34 (NIV)
"Let the peace of Christ . . . rule in your hearts." Colossians 3:15 (NASB)

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THE BALANCED LIFE

Building My Life on Values That Last
Rick & Kay Warren

"It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night . . . God wants his loved ones to get their proper rest." Psalm 127:2 (TLB)

B.A.L.A.N.C.E.

B _____ **MY LIFE AROUND CHRIST**

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is . . . Love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

A _____ **MY HUMANITY**

"Only someone too stupid to find his way home would wear himself out with work."
Ecclesiastes 10:15 (GNT)

"You made my body, Lord; now give me sense to heed your laws."
Psalm 119:73 (TLB)

L _____ **MY LABOR**

"You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me." Exodus 20:9-10 (GNT)

"Sabbath" means: A DAY OF REST

"The Sabbath was made to benefit man." Mark 2:27 (TLB)

A _____ **MY VALUES**

"I have also learned why people work so hard to succeed: it is because they envy the things their neighbors have." Ecclesiastes 4:4 (GNT)

"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"
Mark 8:36 (NIV)

"It is better to have only a little, with peace of mind, than be busy all the time."
Ecclesiastes 4:6 (GNT)

N _____ **MY INNER LIFE**

"I had no time to care for myself." Song of Solomon 1:6 (GNT)

"I will not neglect your Word." Psalm 119:16 (NIV)

"Jesus often slipped away to be alone so he could pray." Luke 5:16 (NCV)

C _____ **MY SCHEDULE TO GOD**

"My times are in your hands." Psalm 31:15 (NIV)

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

E _____ **EACH MOMENT**

"All of us should . . . enjoy what we have worked for. It is God's gift."

Ecclesiastes 3:13 (GNT)

"A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life." Proverbs 14:30 (TLB)

Jesus: *"Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest . . . the load I give you to carry is light."* Matthew 11:28-30 (NCV)

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SHOWING RESPECT

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Rick Warren

RESPECT WHO?

Parents (Exodus 20:8-9)
Spouses (Ephesians 5:22, 1 Peter 3:1, 7)
Church leaders (Hebrews 13:17)
Anyone in authority (Romans 13:1-7)

"Show proper respect to everyone." 1 Peter 2:17 (NIV)

1. WHY TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT?

1. BECAUSE _____

"You (God) made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor." Psalm 8:5 (GNT)

2. BECAUSE _____

"God paid a ransom to save you . . . he paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ." 1 Peter 1:18-19 (TLB)

3. BECAUSE _____

"If a person isn't loving and kind, it shows that he doesn't know God—for God is love." 1 John 4:8 (TLB)

"Love is not rude." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (ERV)

4. BECAUSE _____

"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows."
Galatians 6:7 (PHILLIPS)

2. HOW TO SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

1. WHEN YOU SPEAK . . .

BE _____ NOT JUST _____

"Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit." Proverbs 15:4 (NIV)

2. WHEN YOU ARE SERVED . . .

BE _____ NOT _____

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31 (NIV)

3. WHEN YOU DISAGREE . . .

BE _____ NOT _____
"Each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another." Romans 14:12 (NIV)

4. WHEN YOU SHARE YOUR FAITH . . .

_____ DON'T _____
"If anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way." 1 Peter 3:15-16 (TLB)

5. WHEN PEOPLE ARE RUDE TO YOU . . .

"Repay no one evil for evil . . . overcome evil with good."
Romans 12:17, 21 (ESV)

WHERE DOES RESPECT BEGIN?

"Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life."
Exodus 20:12 (TLB)

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OFFERING FORGIVENESS

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1. WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE?

1. BECAUSE _____

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

2. BECAUSE _____

"To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do." Job 5:2 (GNT)

"You are only hurting yourself with your anger." Job 18:4 (GNT)

"Some people stay healthy till the day they die . . . others have no happiness at all; they live and die with bitter hearts." Job 21:23-25 (GNT)

3. BECAUSE _____

"If you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:15 (NIV)

FORGIVING IS NOT . . .

- . . . minimizing the seriousness of the offense
- . . . instant restoration of trust
- . . . resuming the relationship without any changes

2. HOW SHOULD I FORGIVE?

1. RECOGNIZE _____

"Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins." Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NLT)

2. RELINQUISH _____

"Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it." Romans 12:19 (TLB)

"Peter . . . asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'" Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT)

3. RESPOND _____

"Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

"Love . . . keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV)

4. REFOCUS _____

"Put your heart right, Job. Reach out to God . . . Then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more." Job 11:13-16 (GNT)

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MAINTAINING MORAL PURITY

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"God wants you to be holy and pure and to keep clear of all sexual sin . . . For God has not called us to be dirty-minded and full of lust but to be holy and clean."

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7 (TLB)

HOW TO STAY PURE IN A POLLUTED WORLD

1. MAKE _____

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word." Proverbs 119:9 (ESV)

2. MANAGE _____

"Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life."

Proverbs 4:23 (NCV)

"Keep your mind on what is right." Proverbs 23:19 (NCV)

How Immorality Happens:

Thoughts . . . Emotions . . . Actions

- 1st Accepting sinful thoughts in my mind
- 2nd Emotional, non-physical involvement
- 3rd Physical involvement
- 4th Rationalizing my actions

"Turn your back on the turbulent desires of youth and give your positive attention to goodness, faith, love and peace." 2 Timothy 2:22 (PHILLIPS)

3. MONITOR _____

"The fool feeds on trash." Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

"Keep me from paying attention to what is worthless." Psalm 119:37 (GNT)

"I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar." Psalm 101:3 (NLT)

4. MINIMIZE _____

"Be careful. If you are thinking, 'Oh, I would never behave like that'—let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin." 1 Corinthians 10:12 (TLB)

"Bad companions ruin good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33 (GNT)

"But among you there must not even be a hint of sexual immorality."

Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)

5. MAINTAIN _____

"Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love." Ecclesiastes 9:9 (NIV)

"The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs . . . Do not deprive each other of sexual relations . . . so that Satan won't be able to tempt you." 1 Corinthians 7:3, 5 (NLT)

6. MAGNIFY _____

"Anyone who commits adultery doesn't have any sense. He is just destroying himself." Proverbs 6:32 (GNT)

"Adultery may cost you your life." Proverbs 6:26 (NCV)

"God will judge the sexually immoral." Hebrews 13:4 (ESV)

THE PATH BACK TO PURITY

1. REPENT Psalm 51:1-10

2. RECEIVE FORGIVENESS Psalm 32:1-5

3. REFOCUS & REPLACE Romans 13:13-14

4. REQUEST HELP DAILY 1 Corinthians 10:13

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful . . . When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure." 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

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SHOWING FAIRNESS

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LIFE IS UNFAIR . . .

CRIMINALS GO UNPUNISHED

"Throughout the earth justice is giving way to crime, and even the police courts are corrupt." Ecclesiastes 3:16 (TLB)

"When crime is not punished quickly, people feel it is safe to do wrong."
Ecclesiastes 8:11 (NLT)

THE OPPRESSED ARE UNHELPED

"I looked again at all the injustice that goes on in this world. The oppressed were crying, and no one would help them . . . their oppressors had power."
Ecclesiastes 4:1 (GNT)

POLITICIANS ARE UNETHICAL

"If you see . . . miscarriage of justice anywhere throughout the land, don't be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up . . . so the matter is lost in red tape and bureaucracy." Ecclesiastes 5:8 (TLB)

"Here is an injustice . . . Stupid people are given positions of authority."
Ecclesiastes 10:5-6 (GNT)

GOOD PEOPLE GO UNREWARDED

"Righteous people suffer for what the wicked do, and wicked people get what the righteous deserve." Ecclesiastes 8:14 (GW)

CAPABLE PEOPLE ARE UNSUCCESSFUL

"In this world fast runners do not always win the races . . . wise do not always earn a living, intelligent people do not always get rich, and capable people do not always rise to high positions." Ecclesiastes 9:11 (GNT)

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW UNFAIRNESS?

1. BECAUSE HE GIVES US _____

"I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse."
Deuteronomy 11:26 (NIV)

2. BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO _____

"In due season God will judge everything man does." Ecclesiastes 3:17 (TLB)

3. BECAUSE IT SHOWS _____

"God is letting the world go on its sinful way so he can test mankind, and so that men themselves will see that they are no better than beasts."
Ecclesiastes 3:18 (TLB)

4. BECAUSE _____

"Endurance produces character." Romans 5:4 (ESV)

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO UNFAIRNESS?

1. ACCEPT _____

"Do not be surprised at the terrible trouble which now comes to test you. Do not think that something strange is happening to you. But be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings so that you will be happy and full of joy when Christ comes again in glory." 1 Peter 4:13 (NCV)

2. RESPOND _____

"Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."
Matthew 5:43-44 (PHILLIPS)

"Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors." Jeremiah 22:3 (NLT)

"The Lord demands fairness in every business deal." Proverbs 16:17 (TLB)

3. WAIT _____

"A person might have to suffer even when it is unfair, but if he thinks of God and can stand the pain, God is pleased." 1 Peter 2:19 (NCV)

"If you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you." 1 Peter 4:19 (NLT)

"These little troubles . . . are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid reward out of all proportion to our pain." 2 Corinthians 5:17 (PHILLIPS)