

Whose Values

In the heat of political campaigning, candidates will always make charges and counter-charges, belittling each other. Such has always been, and I'm sure will never cease. Without naming names, or even party-affiliation (we must be non-partisan) one comment, and its critical response, caught my attention. A few years ago one candidate caught thunder from both sides of the political aisle when he said, "I think most people know exactly what New York values are. Everyone understands that the values in New York City are especially liberal or pro-abortion or pro-gay marriage. Focus is around money and the media."

This candidate may or may not have erred in associating his opponent with "New York values," but the response is noteworthy—not only from his opponent, but from the media, and especially from New Yorkers. This candidate was being judgmental of a value-system. That seems to have become politically incorrect—unless the judgment is against Judeo-Christian values. Let us not think, though, that the values the candidate referred to are exclusively the city of New York's. Our values as a nation have evolved from a respect for the laws of God into a mentality wherein all values are equal—especially if they run counter to traditional and Biblical values. New York may indeed be a trail-blazer for deviant values, but she is not alone. The leaven of godlessness in our more populous cities soon spreads throughout the nation. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (1 Corinthians 5:6).

The sole values that deserve acceptance by Christians are those that are established upon a sure foundation—the word of God. What Jesus said regarding "whosoever" in Matthew 7:24-25 could conceivably be applied to any society or nation, as well as individuals: To be directed by Christ's teachings is to build upon a solid foundation; to ignore His teachings is, as it were, to build upon sand. That society or nation that adheres to biblical truth will stand, but great will be the fall of those who cast God's word aside. The widespread acceptance of the killing of unborn infants and sexual deviancy leaves a people open to God's judgment. That which is relevant for "doctrine (teaching), reproof and correction" of any sustainable society still must be "Scripture"—God's word, The Bible.

Considering this fact, Christians must bear responsibility in this regard. Jesus said of His people that they would be the "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-16), but the salt has "lost its savor", and the light has too often been "put under a bushel," as carnal impurity has permeated the salt, and materialism and compromise have obscured the light of Christ that should be evident to the world in the lives of true believers.

It comes down to this: Whose values are seen in your life? The worlds? Or Christ's?
--Ron