

Our Values

Definition

A value is an abstract concept that we voluntarily embrace at the expense of personal comfort.

Presupposition #1

No one can achieve excellence in any field without voluntarily embracing a lot of pain.

Presupposition #2

If we fail to accurately select the values needed to support our vision, the vision will remain a pleasant dream and never become reality.

1. We only embrace productive pain

Most pain, such as the pain from woundedness, hampers our Kingdom work. That unproductive pain needs to be resolved with fierce intentionality. Then we will have the emotional resources to embrace pain that produces growth. This is productive pain.

2. Failure is normative and highly valued

If everything we are doing is successful, then we are living far too conservatively. We grow when we reach beyond our existing skill set. The price of reaching beyond is that we sometimes reach too far. That is a price we are willing to pay. We would rather be growing and stumbling, than to be pristine in perfection, remain small, and fail to develop the full potential God has placed in us.

3. We experience fulfillment when we solve the right problems

We were designed by God to solve a specific set of problems. If we do not develop the skills to solve those problems, we will face futility in old age. If we try to solve problems we were not designed to solve, we will face futility in midlife. We must identify the problems that God has written our name on and own them. He will meet us there, we will grow in intimacy with Him, we will experience fulfillment and the world will be a better place.

4. We incarnate truth

Learning a new concept is far easier than living it. When we take the time to make the truth a part of our lives, we have greater authority in our words and actions.

5. We walk in life giving dominion

Being a predator is unholy, not a mark of leadership. Being a professional victim is unholy, not a mark of humility. We were called to change the world, bringing it into conformity with the original design of the King. We can only do that from a position of life giving dominion.

6. Life should flow strongly from leaders, not primarily to them

One of the marks of adulthood is being able to meet your own needs and someone else's simultaneously. One of the ways to measure a leader is by the quality and quantity of life that flows from the leader to the followers. A leader by definition should be "low maintenance" to his followers. We will not generally partner with "leaders" who expect their followers to serve them with a higher level of sacrifice than the leader is willing to make to be life giving to his followers. (And if there is anything ambiguous about how we feel on this subject, we can certainly expand upon it!)

7. We celebrate the King

Our culture says that our spiritual pilgrimage should be a private thing and we should not inflict our joys upon those committed to remaining oppressed. We are extravagantly, passionately politically incorrect on this point.