

Values, Lifestyle, and Discipleship: Session 1

By: Bob Kraning

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Host: For the 830 Service. And you already know a little bit about Bob. He has been told that he's the director of Forest Home Christian Conference Center, in charge of the ministry aspect of it. I've known him for about seven years. I've been under his ministry off and on. And just on a personal note, I just like to say that one of the things that means the most to me is his consistency. To me, it's kind of like a dad image. He's a great model, and because of that, he's been instrumental in my commitment to Christ, and I'm just very thankful to my Heavenly Father for him. So, listen up to him because he does practice what he preaches. And now, without further ado, here's Bob Kraning.

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Bob Kraning: All right, thank you. In spite of all I said, you came back. I'm excited. I thought we could be empty. You never know when you have to speak in that first hour. That's a little scary. Let me, first of all, just take a few minutes and get acquainted a little bit. Let me tell you a little bit about myself. My family basically not my job, but my wife and I have been married 23 years, 24 in May. We met back in Kansas City and went out on our first date at midnight on New Year's Eve, which was exciting, and a year and a half later got married and have had just a super 24 years.

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We had some major hassles in those 24 years. We've had some giant differences. My wife is a very strong lady. She is a nurse. She's a registered nurse, works at Redlands Community Hospital two or three nights a week. She is a Bible study fellowship discussion leader and has been in Bible study fellowship for seven years, been very active in that organization. She is a Sunday school teacher. She is the president of PTA at the high school, and this past year has been running competitively in 10k runs and runs 3 miles every morning and 6 miles two mornings a week.

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But she's not super lady. Now, I realize when you hear all that, you go, my goodness. But she has time for me, and she has time for the boys, and she's just a good woman who's been the greatest thing that God ever gave me to really encourage and enhance my ministry. And as I say, when you get a lady that's that strong, you occasionally go through a zinger. And we have been through those. We've been through major disagreements. One of the great things we've learned in our marriage, and we haven't always learned it well, but is that if you on a consistent basis communicate with one another when you don't have anything to talk about, you can communicate when you have major things to talk about. And I think that's one of the areas we've tried to work with.

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We have two sons. We have a son who is a senior at the University of Redlands, and he'll be graduating this year. And Kent has been a real joy to our family. He's a great encouragement to

the family, he's a great help to our family. He and I have had differences here and there. We've had some difficulties, but I think mostly we've been able to talk also.

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He for the past five years has dated a Mexican girl from our community whose parents for three years would not really accept him. He could not even go to the house. And I had never lived in that kind of situation. That was very difficult for me. I got a little antagonistic about the whole thing. But he's a committed guy and he is hung tight, and some good things are happening there, and I'm encouraged with that. We have another boy who is a sophomore in high school. Kevin is a totally different personality and he's just a much more docile individual. Our other boy was an athlete and just finished at the U of R this year playing football and we've watched football for eleven years with him square back and Pop Warner. And our other one now plays in the band. So, I now go to football games to watch the halftime, which I never really thought I'd do, but it's been neat because he's really found his identity with his trumpet, and it's been a great thing. It's given him a lot of confidence and changed his personality great deal and I think for the better.

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He's a neat kid, he's a wrestler, was doing very well this year and two weeks ago Saturday broke his leg in a wrestling tournament and is out for the year, so he's on crutches. But he's found that that's not all bad. He's got girls that carries books and girls that carries trumpet now. So that's what he turned out to be a pretty good thing at the high school. And he's doing well, I think most of all we have attempted with our family to do some of the things we're going to talk about. I

have not done them well many times. I've only been a dad one time around; I've made a lot of mistakes.

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One thing we've tried to do is to set standards in our family to try to get some things that we are convinced of and then to try to walk with them not only ourselves, but with our kids and to try to get our boys to the point where when they leave home and when they go out on their own they have a sense about what we believe is valuable and hope will be values in their thinking. And I think that's kind of what we've tried to do as a family together.

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Kent's values are not exactly like mine, but there are things in his value system that I get very excited about because I've seen him grow with those and I've seen him change with those I think that's what values all are about. So, we're a family. We're a family that's muddling through. We've had a lot of little perplexities and frustrations along the way. But I love my kids. I love being with my kids, and I love doing things together as a family. I guess one of the sorrows of my life is to see my family get older when it's much harder to get them together to go someplace as a family anymore. And I think that's been hard.

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The other night, walked through my oldest kid's bedroom and he's going to be gone next year. He's lived in our house now for 21 years. I stood in his bedroom cried just thinking about the fact that he's going to be there next year. That's a very sad day in my life. And yet I know it's

important that he get out and do his own thing. But I really love him, and I love him a little guy. He's not very little anymore. He kind of looks me in the eye now, but he still seems little to me.

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So anyway, we're a family. We've tried to honor Christ. We've tried to use our income wisely. We've tried to be tithers and give God what really belongs to him and try to do a little more than that. But I'll tell you something. I have a tough time sometimes living in the world we live in and trying to keep my equilibrium. And that's kind of what I want to deal with when we work in this seminar hour as I kind of share with you and I'm going to begin this morning to try to share a little outline with you. Something kind of hits your head and you want to make a comment, or you want to ask a question, or you want to get into something on the thing, please get your hand up or speak out or whatever. Don't feel like you got to sit here and just take in what I'm going to say. You may not agree with me in some areas, and that's perfectly all right. I guess the thing I don't want most of all is that you just kind of walk out neutral.

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I'd like to either have you angry or say, Gee, that's neat, or say, boy, I don't agree with that. At least your head's been turning. So, I'm not here to lay my trip on you and say, hey, boy, get this thing in line or you're going to be in the pits. I'm not sure I got my act together. I don't really know. I just know the struggles I have, and I know the good points of it, and I know the bad. I know my obedience problems.

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Tomorrow I'd like to finish up whatever we don't get done on this tomorrow. And then the last part of that hour, I'd like to put a couple of things on an overhead. They're going to give me overhead tomorrow. I'd like to show you a couple of things on the screen that I call my crutches. Now, people say you don't need crutches in the Christian faith. I just found that if I've got a broken leg, a crutch helps. I'm watching my kid right now on crutches, and it seems to be a very reasonable thing to do when you have a broken leg. And I've got some broken spiritual legs, and they need crutches here and there.

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And I found a couple of little crutches that have been winners for me, and I just want to share them with you, and maybe they can be of help to you and maybe help you in a couple of areas. Okay? All right, we're going to try to talk a little bit about values and some concepts of values. So let me play a little bit of groundwork, and if anything strikes you, just get your hand up. Or if I'm looking down, holler and we'll stop and talk, because I'm not here, as I said, to lay a trip on you. I just want you to get involved and try to think through your value system. I'm going to kind of try to define a value for you in a minute. Let me read a little thing for you.

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First of all, that was clipped out of any of you. Take his magazine. Magazine. I recommend that magazine to you while you're in college. It's a great magazine. I think they just print some great articles. I take several publications. That's one of the two or three that I read cover to cover every time I get it. I love the magazine. It's kind of simple, and so am I, and we get along well. So

anyway, there's some great things in there. Let me read you a little article I clipped out of there just a little one pager that kind of talks about this.

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Once a man said, if I had some extra money, I'd give all that extra money to God. You ever feel like that when you're in college and you're working, and you only got a buck and you got to pay tuition? But I have just enough to support myself and my family. But I want you to know, if I had extra, God would have it. That same man said, if I had some extra time, I would give my extra time to God. But, you know, I discovered every minute of my life is taken up between my job and my family and my club and my golf and my racquet ball and what have you. Every single minute of my time is gone. But if I had some, God would have it.

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And the same man said, If I had a talent, do you ever feel that way? You watch somebody perform and you go, Boy, if I could do that, I would be something. If I had a talent, I would give it to God. But I have no lovely voice. I have no special skill. I have never been able to lead a group. In fact, I can't even think cleverly or quickly. Other people can. You ever been around somebody that's got equipped for everything and you never have equipped for anything until you're about 20 minutes away from it? I'm like that a lot. I think of something super to have said 20 minutes ago, say clever or quickly, the way I would like to. But if I could, I would use that for God.

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And God was touched. And although it was not like God, God gave that man money, he gave him time and he gave him a marvelous talent. And then God waited and waited and waited. And after a while God shrugged his shoulders and he took all of those things right back from that man. He took his money; he took his time, and he took his talent. After a while, the man sighed and said, if I had that money back, I would give it all to God. If I had that time back, I would use it for God. And if I could only rediscover that talent I had briefly, I would totally use it for God.

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And God said, oh, shut up. I like that. And the man ultimately said to some of his friends, you know, I don't think I believe in God anymore. It's a great, great little discourse on our lives. We are great. I don't know about you, but I am a great if only I had person or a great Yabut person. Those are my two favorite people in the world. If only I had, I would do it or Ya but, you don't understand my situation, huh? Are you a ya but person? Boy, I am that. Somebody will say, well, I don't understand what you're doing. I say, Ya but you don't understand. And then we give them our excuses and that's how we set our value systems. We set our value systems around our Ya but, and that's not a good way to do it.

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Okay, let's talk about some things. Now, let's begin by just talking about what is of value. Let me give you a verse of scripture. Just jot this reference down. You don't need to look it up. Romans, chapter twelve, verse nine. Three things said in that verse. One let your love be without hypocrisy. And that's going to be talked about a lot this week. Let your love be honest, let it be without hypocrisy. And then it gives us a value concept. Hate those things which are evil, cleave

to those things, depending on translation might say abhor those things that are evil, cleave to those things that are good.

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The things that displease God, push away from you, the things that really please God somehow get them into your lifestyle. Now, that's what God is saying about the basis on which we set a value system. Get the things that are pleasing God, get the things that are good and get them pulled in. Get the things that are evil, the things that are of the world, the things that are not of God, and get those basically pushed away from you. He says, abhor them, hate them, get them out of your lifestyle.

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Things that are displeasing to God. And I think so often, and I think it's important that we keep this in our minds. The things are not the problem, it's the place they occupy in our lives. And I think that's true of everything. I think it's basically how things occupy our lifestyle is what messes it up. The thing in itself is not bad. It's like the guy owning the 42-foot sailboat. That sailboat probably is not all that bad. If that man is somewhere into that ballpark and is in that economic level and chooses to walk that way and does well with his money because there's lots of it, I'm not going to condemn that man. I may not agree with his lifestyle, but I'm not going to condemn him for that. But if that sailboat begins to take over his life.

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I watch people in our church when spring hits, they are never in church. You know why?

Because there's a river every weekend. See, somewhere in there, there's something wrong with that concept. And there's something wrong with believing that your family is autonomous. And that's one of our great problems today with the Christian family is the Christian family has come to a conclusion with all of this family emphasis that the Christian family is autonomous. If I can go to the river and take my family over there Friday night, Saturday and Sunday and read a psalm on Sunday morning before we hit the skis and our family is happy, we are okay, folks, it just isn't true.

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We were not called to be autonomous Christians. We were called to be part of a greater body. And if somewhere we don't get that in our heads, we are going to have people, many more than we have now, that are in desperate trouble in the next generation. So, keep that in mind.

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Okay, let me give you a definition of a value. Best one I've read there are probably lots, but this is by Sid Simon. Just a little definition of a value. A value is a characteristic that demonstrates how I have decided to use my life today. A value is a characteristic or set of characteristics that demonstrate how I have determined or decided to utilize my life even today. And that's simply saying that as you walk on this campus and as you treat people and walk with people and rub shoulders with people as you leave this campus and establish a home or a job or a situation, the way you live, the way you handle money, the way you walk, the way you treat your neighbors, the way you care about people, the concern you have for a world.

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Does it matter to you today that in Somalia they probably picked up 500 people this morning in carts that starved to death because they did not have anything to eat? Does that bother you at all? When we see that or read that? It's like a bad dream to us. And yet in that part of the world right now they're picking up like 500 bodies every morning who starve to death. Isn't it interesting that we would walk into a place like the student center and say, boy, I'm starving? That simply means an order of French fries between breakfast and lunch. That does not have anything to do with starving. And yet in our world today there are people who are saying daily, I am starving, and by tomorrow they will be dead. What does that mean to you? What does that mean to your lifestyle? What will it mean to your lifestyle?

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America has moved from being probably one of the most respected nations in the world to rapidly becoming the most hated. Week from today I'll be in Cairo, Egypt. Things in the Middle East toward Americans have changed radically in the last five years. People dislike us intensely in many places because we have it all and we won't share it. Let me recommend a book to you if you have not read it. Ron Cider's book Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger. If you haven't read it, you should read it. You should read Bryant's book The Gap two great books by University Press. You need to read those.

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Ron Cider, in his book, says I want you to know something. We put enough fertilizer on the golf courses in America to change the food production of the world and we will not share it. When the world wanted to buy our fertilizer five years ago, we put such a high tax on it that nobody could afford to buy it. Why? Because we didn't want it to go out of our country. Because we want nice country clubs for wealthy people to play golf on. I'm not down on golf. I enjoy playing golf. But, folks, that's a fact. Is that going to in any way affect my lifestyle? And am I in any way going to change my lifestyle because the world is starving to death? Do I have an obligation as a Christian to do that? And a value system?

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Those are the characteristics that demonstrate to a world how I have decided to use my life. If I continue to live the same way, if I continue to own more than I need, if I continue to spend more than I need, if I continue to eat more than I should, if I continue to look at Somalia as a bad dream then I am saying to a world, this is my value system. As a Christian, I really don't care. I think the thing Cider's book will do for you it will make you analyze your own personal responsibility. The thing Cider talks about is we can no longer sit around and say, well, what if I did change? Who am I?

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And that's always our top out, isn't it? That's mine. Well, what if my family, what if we did really alter our lifestyle? What if we did live on half of the money that we make? What if we did sell everything we have and get into some more modest situation? Holy cow. What is the amount to when you kind of put the dollars down and you say, what is that going to change? But Cider's

whole thrust is is it a responsibility as a Christian or isn't it a value that a Christian ought to have, or isn't it? And I have to deal with that as Bob Kraning. I can't deal with your life on it. I can't stand here and lay some trip on you. But I think it's critical when we talk about values that we try to understand what's happening in the world. We tried to get a global concept of what's going on, not just what's going on in laboratory or Newport Beach, say somewhere in there we've got a seat.

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And that's part of what values are all about. Okay? Now, I wrote down three things. Well, first of all, let me say this. Let's just talk a minute about value versus vocabulary. Anybody? Give me an example. Just give me an example. Within Christendom, what would be part of a vocabulary that might not be part of a value system? Anything you can think of, just speak out. Anything touch your mind? Love. Okay. To say I love you to someone and not do anything about it. Okay. Anything else strike your mind? Compassion. Compassion. Okay. What kinds of things do we say to one another on a regular basis? I'm your friend. Good. Yeah. Hey, I'm your friend. What does that mean? Is it vocabulary? Somebody else? I say something. I'll pray for you, marvelous vocabulary of the Christian. And we don't see that person for four months. And we see him approach us on the street and say, dear God, bless them. I've been praying for you ever since we met the last time. Now we're all laughing because we know it's true.

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How are you? When we really don't care. It's a nice thing to say, but praise the Lord, it can become a little mundane, very sterile if we let it. Anything else strike your mind? Fellowship.

Interesting word, isn't it? Fellowship to many people is pie and coffee. Fellowship is the word koinonia. Koinonia probably best definition. Our common participation in God. That's what fellowship is all about. It's not pie and coffee, folks. That might be a little piece of it. The pie particularly. No pun intended. I did not mean that that way. Okay. You see, if I say to you today the most important thing, I have on this earth is my family and I never spend time with my family, then that's really vocabulary. That is not value. I say my son is important to me, but I never spend time for him. I never planned my schedule around his schedule. Anytime he spends with me, he plans his schedule around my schedule, then he is not important to me. And I had to learn that the hard way. So, it's one thing to say my kid is important to me and make him plan his whole schedule around my schedule. Why? Because my schedule is more important, obviously. Oh, is it really? See, that's vocabulary, folks.

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And some of us on this campus have great vocabulary and crummy value systems, I'll guarantee you. You just can't put this many people together and not have that. People who can talk the language, they get in a group and people are talking about what a wonderful time they had spiritually on vacation. I walked in the restroom this morning over here and overheard a conversation that intrigued me greatly. One guy was telling another guy about this really good thing that happened while he was gone over the holidays, and he was really excited about something for the Lord. And the other guy was struggling to say something, and it was obvious because I am sure he felt trapped to say something spiritual, and he probably just had a good time and nothing terribly exciting happened, but we don't feel comfortable just say, well, you know, nothing spiritual really happened to me. The other guy had said something big. So, we

now have got to come up with some vocabulary that doesn't make him wonder where we are, right? Okay, let me give you three little things I wrote down.

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Values are always ultimately chosen individually. Keep that in mind. Secondly, values are always chosen well, as a good word, values should hopefully be chosen with the consequences in mind. If I'm going to choose that this is the value of my life, I should know the end result of that. I should have some concept of the consequences of that choice. Thirdly, I should be able to declare my values unashamedly. Now, some of you, even as well as freshmen or sophomores or juniors or seniors, may still be kind of pumping through your parent's value systems. If you've lived in a good home, you may still be kind of wiggling your way through your folks' value systems. You're trying to sort out what is your value system versus what your parents have told you, what you have been taught. When children grow up, if they grow up in a home where there are parents that care about them at all, they grow up basically with a parental value system. My kids have grown up with a value system that belongs to the Kraning household. My college son now has really had to begin to make some key choices about his own values. They're not all like mine, but he's had to work those out. He's had to sort through those.

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So, you ultimately make that choice yourself. You ought to in some consistent, reasonable fashion, know the end of it, and once you have it, you ought to be able to declare it unashamedly. If I've chosen to obey God a certain area and not be part of a certain thing a lot of other people are doing, I ought not to be embarrassed about that. And yet we are. And it's funny, folks, I want

to tell you something. Peer group pressure never changes. It never ultimately ends. It may lessen at a point, but I think sometimes we look at people that are married and have their own families, and we think, well, they don't understand the pressure I'm under with this pure group I'm in. I want you to know, when you live in a community, you can get caught in the same kind of pressure. Sometimes it's even worse. So, I've got to know what I believe. I've got to have a value system, and I got to be able to declare that to my neighbor who walks to a totally different drum. It doesn't mean I have to knock them down. I just got to stand up for what I am, and I got to be willing to walk to that drum if I'm going to have a value system.

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Okay, let me give you a little fun thing about values that will maybe solidify your thinking. When I was a kid, my mom always bought my shoes when I was little, at a Buster Brown shoe store. Now, they're still around a little bit, but in the Midwest, they were big time, and they had a thing that nobody else had. They had X-ray machines for your feet. You could go in and you stood and stuck your feet in this deal. You could look down through it and you could see your feet, all the little bones and the little greeny flesh inside the little shoe. And they determined the sizes. It wasn't for them to just simply measure it and say, jeez, he's a 9D. They'd look in this and they'd say Ah aha aha, and whenever they would look at my feet and then they found out those machines were burning our feet up, incidentally, so they can't use those anymore. But anyway, that was the only bright spot for me was to go in and look at my feet. That was really neat.

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But then the guy in the Buster Brown, no matter where we were, he would always say the same thing. Mrs. Kraning, your son has an unusual problem. I heard that dozens of times. He has an unusual problem. He has an unusually high in-step and an unusually high arch, and we only have one shoe that would be proper for his feet. Now, when I was in grade school, particularly 5th, 6th grade, loafers were in, loafers with pennies in them were in, big time. See, not too big today. Big time then. Lacey's shoes were not in other than your tennis. They were not in. His shoe for me was a black high top lacey, so Bobby can walk for the rest of his life. My mother's value system was, I want Bobby to walk. My value system was, I don't care whether I walk or not, I want to look good. And it made no difference to me. I mean, I could care less whether I could walk or not. I wore the longest pants in school for three years because I hated my shoes. And then there came a day when my mom handed me money and said, you can go buy your own shoes. I'll never forget that.

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I bought a pair of loafers that hurt so bad, I could not walk across the store. And the guy said to me, you cannot wear these. And I said, Try me. I can still remember prying those things on for days and walking in school, like, and getting them off under my desk every time I could. But I was in. Why was it important? It was my value system. I've never worn a pair of string shoes from that day to this, other than tennis shoes, and I still can walk. It's an amazing thing, but I can still walk. But you see the difference in a value structure. My mother's value system is its capability of moving. My value system is, how do I look? And that happens in many, many areas of our life. We've got to establish that value system.

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Now, second thing that we want to talk about today is how do we determine a point of reference? If I'm going to have a value system, I've got to have a point of reference. I got to have something I'm looking at to say, by this, I will establish my value system, and that is my point of reference.

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Let me ask you a question. What would you see as possible points of reference? How do you see it? Just in the community you live in, right here on campus. What would you look at as your point of reference? Anybody? Scripture. Okay, that seems to be the logical thing, doesn't it? Anybody else? The school. You look at the school as your point of reference. Okay, what else? Student leaders. Okay. Leadership positions in the campus, maybe particularly if you're a freshman, or sophomore, sometimes you get to be a senior, you go, I know those people. Anything else? Okay, magazines. Things that approach the eye gate in the air gate as you're moving through life. Okay, let me suggest to you that, as I see it, scripturally, and I'm sure you can find other things. Let me just suggest to you that maybe there are two basic points of reference that we all have for our lifestyle, okay? Let's just take a look at two things that maybe we can kind of work with then, and then we'll talk about it.

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All right, look, first of all, if you got your Bible, look at first John, chapter four, very familiar love chapter in first John, chapter four. Let me show you just three verses. We could read the whole chapter, but we won't take the time to do that. We don't have a lot of time left. And I want

to get this reference point out. And then we'll try to talk tomorrow about how we walk that out and how we get some crutches in the middle of it.

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First John, chapter four, verses six, seven and eight says this, now let's go back up to verse four where he's talking, John is talking, he said, you are from God. Let's just identify, let's say as we sit in here and standing here today, we are part of the family of God. We have identified at least at the point of conversion, we've at least accepted Christ as our Savior. And we've identified at that point so he could say to us, you are from God. You are in a relationship with God. You're from God little children and have overcome them or are in the process of overcoming them. Them being those that are outside of God. Because greater is he. Very familiar little phrase that you hear often. Greater is he that is in you than he was in the world.

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They, the other side, are from the world. Therefore, they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not from God does not listen to us. By this, now listen to this little phrase. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Now, here's an interesting little thing that comes from John. John says, we come to you from God. We have things to say that are from God. They that are on the other side that have not met Christ. They are of the world. We have a thing out there that's kind of ambiguous in our thinking that we call the world. We say, oh, that is the world. That is worldly. Interesting terminology. That is of the world. And if you drive through certain segments of town, it tends to be elaborated for you in a little bit better way. And you kind of go, that really ought

not to be part. And basically, we make that assumption. In my mind, I make the assumption that nude girls in a bar are not really of God.

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And I make that assumption in my own head, from my point of reference, that God has much more for a woman than to be a commodity in a marketplace. The result of all of that marketplace is, in my mind, women's lib. It's the ultimate end of women's lib of refusing to be marketed. See, and that whole section we make a decision on based on the fact that there is value to humanity. There is value to a woman. There is value to a man. She is to be a help meet and she has to be a help meet under God. She is to be loved as Christ loved the Church. And we make a valued judgment. And that is the world. Now he's saying, they listen to the things the world has to say. You listen to us because you are of God. Then he says, you can determine the spirit of truth and the spirit of error on that basis. Now, that's an interesting thought because to me that simply says this. There are two basic value system. We'll look at the other side of our points of reference in a minute, but it seems to me there are two basic points of reference and you've hit on them and everything you've said.

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One, obviously, is a vertical point of reference and I basically understand that point of reference out of this book and in association with the children of God, with the people of God. I think for all of us it's dangerous to get our eyes on a person and say, that's my example. And yet it seems to be. I look around in my life and there are two or three people that are older than myself. And now those two or three people are men in their 60s who I have known over a period of time and

have tremendous respect and they really are my models. I look at Stanley Collins, who is a part of the Forest home staff and whom some of you know. Stanley, to me, is a model. I will never be like Stanley because Stanley doesn't have a negative bone in his body, and I have several. But Stanley is a model to me of a man who is growing to retirement graciously. He will never retire. He'll slow down a little bit, but he's growing to that graciously with an incredible love for God and for his family and for all that's happened.

[00:35:47.940]

He is a model to me. I hope you have a model. Don't get your whole thing stuck on that model. I don't think you can do that because we've had a lot of models come crashing down around us in the last two or three years. I've had a couple of guys that I look to very strongly who have had disasters in their lifestyle in the last two or three years and if they fall, see, I've got to be there to help pick them up. It's a tough thing picking up your model but sometimes you have to do that. There's a man who's been a model for me for five years who went through the pits in the last two years who I've spent all kinds of time and all of a sudden, the whole role has reversed. He's the one who's always shared with me and suddenly I'm in a position to need to share with him because of what he's been through. But I can't sit and look and say, oh, my model crashed. He failed me. I don't need this Christian faith. See, my eyes have still got to be on God. But you need a model.

[00:36:44.440]

I encourage you to get a model, because in those models, we begin to discover what this verse is all about. The things which we cleave to, the things which we push away, that spirit of good and

that spirit of evil, that spirit of right, that spirit of wrong. We can discover it in a vertical concept. And it comes from the word of God. It comes from the models of God. It comes from the family of God. And sometimes, I think most models, when you get to know them well, they're not quite as good a model as you thought they were. They're more clay than you thought they were. But that's not all bad if you understand it, because it lets you be human, and you got to let them be human. But you need that. So that's one point of reference that we have that is vertical, okay?

[00:37:33.840]

Now let me show you the flip side of our other point of reference. Look at Romans, chapter one. Romans One, probably to most of us has been a chapter on homosexuality and our one little security verse when we meet people that don't know the Lord and we say, well, how about these people that have never heard well, there's this verse in Romans One. And we immediately get our Bibles open and go to Romans 1:20 and we say, well, these people know about God by the things that have been made. That's the famous verse in Romans One. And then there's the homosexual passage of Romans One. I want to show you what's in between those two passages because to me, this gives us our other point of reference, which we all touched on. Listen to it now, and if it gets carried out to its ultimate, we're in trouble. This is what it says beginning at verse 20. Familiar verse, for since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes, his eternal power, and divine nature have been clearly seen being understood through what has been made so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks. They became futile in their speculation. Their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. They exchanged the glory of an

incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

[00:38:59.880]

Therefore, God gave them over in lust of their own hearts to impurity that their bodies might be dishonored among them. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie. They worshiped him to serve the creature rather than the Creator, who was blessed forever. For this reason, God gave them over, degrading passions. Here we come into those homosexual passages. Women exchange the natural function for that which is unnatural. In the same way, also men abandon the natural function of the woman burned in their desire toward one another. Men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper.

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Then it talks about all the things they are filled with that displease God, finishes in verse 32, although they know the ordinance of God and those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same things, but they give hearty approval to all of those others who practice them. Now, let me suggest to you, we either have a vertical point of reference, okay? And it's based on God, the people of God, the models of God, the family of God, and that's where we structure our value system, or we have a horizontal point of reference. Our horizontal point of reference then simply becomes me as I look in the mirror and my peer group and it's all this way [points horizontally].

[00:40:26.690]

Let me show you how it works. In your life, do you ever do something really crummy that you know God is really displeased with? What is your first mental thought? Try to think of somebody you know who is a Christian who has done something crummier. Right. That's our first mental rationalization is, well, I know so and so, and they're at least a Christian, and they did. And in social circles, that is far worse than what I've done. Therefore, what I've done is not all that bad. That's my rationale. I don't know about yours. That's my rationale is to find somebody down this way that is worse off than I am. And you see what happens. If your whole value system is based on peer group, you're in trouble because the whole peer group is basically sinking. And we're all in trouble in that area if I don't have anything to get it this way.

[00:41:15.240]

This is generally on a sinking tone. And that's why in Southern California we've got all of these people who look at one another and justify all that they do. I just read an article, and I'm not sure even have it with me. I think it's at home. Incredible thing that's in Air California's magazine this month. That's on the airplanes. I flew up to San Francisco. I read it going up there, and the title of it is Doris or Divorce. And it's a whole page on the Doris Day syndrome of the movie industry. And what's happened from then until now that endorsed Doris Day's Day. People did not just live together. And the whole concept of the structure of our social order was totally different. Daddy took care of daughter. Daddy had a relationship with daughter. Daddy took daughter to lunch. Daddy gave daughter her security. Daddy clothed her, their daddy fed her, and the whole thing is daddy.

[00:42:20.790]

Today, that's all different. And then the whole second column deals with the divorce syndrome and where it will lead us. Ultimately, a lot of it is just it's so far out that it will never happen. Obviously, it's two people discussing their 35 divorces, how much they've grown and what a good perspective they've had on themselves after going through all of these relationships and what a marvelous growth thing.

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All of me, after the discussion, they decided to get married. But the woman is horrified. She said, what if it works? She said, I will not grow anymore. And he says, don't worry about it. If you're marrying me, it will not work, and you will continue to grow. And that's the ultimate. And it's all done in satire, but it's a picture of what we are and what we're rapidly becoming.

[00:43:07.170]

And now psychology and its counseling, even some Christian psychology is saying, don't worry about your spouse, you got to get your act together, and if you're happy without your spouse, then get her out of the way or get him out of the way. You got to get you together, and you've got to be happy with you. Hang responsibility. Hang that that relationship is for the rest of your life. Hang the fact that God said to the husband, love your wife as Christ loved the church. See, you think Christ will ever come to the point where he said, I don't need that church. They're bugging me. Hey, folks, if we're bugging him, we've been doing it for years, and he's still hanging in with us.

[00:43:56.070]

And you see, the world is on that plane. It's on a downward sync, and it always will be. Now, how do you set your value system in the midst of that? You've got two choices. You've got a vertical choice; you've got a horizontal choice. Tomorrow, I want to try to show you on some overheads and stuff how we kind of walk that out. Let me suggest to you as we finish, because we're out of time, let me just suggest to you this thought, and tomorrow I think you can get into a little more discussion on the thing as we get into the walk out, let me suggest to you that in all of our lives, I would dare say in this room, we have some things. And when we begin to talk about tomorrow, you'll see it. We have some things that are very much this way in our lives. We have other things that are flatter than a frit. I just got some things in my life that I am always battling that are down here. I'm always determining that I have this on the basis of what my neighbors have. Oh, I want to do this because so and so did this. Or I want to be a part of this, because that seems to be a neat thing to do in our neighborhood, and you're more accepted. And I live on these flat planes in whole segments of my life. I've got other whole segments of my life. And I believe I've really got it up this way. I mean, I can really see where it is, and I can really get a handle. Going to show you a chart I use to try to be able to visualize that for me on a monthly basis and try to see where things are.

[00:45:23.790]

But that seems to me be the issue. If I get a gut issue, I cannot walk without being concerned about the world. If I have a gut issue, I cannot live on \$50,000 a year. If I could live on 20 and give 30 away. So, if I get a world perspective, I cannot just go off on my own to see what I can

gain and gather and to hell with the world. I cannot live like that. Yet even within Christianity, we've got a whole syndrome of autonomous families. We have a whole syndrome of more is better, bigger is better. And I'm not sure that's all what it's all about. And I'm struggling in those areas. I'm struggling to keep my family together. I'm struggling to try to keep in some kind of an economic level that is helpful to a world. I'm struggling to try to keep my family into some semblance of order, try to keep my marriage in some semblance. And it's frustrating out there.

[00:46:23.510]

So, the couple of guys I was talking to this morning, we were talking about, I said, hey, don't look at that world out there. And when you're in college, totally condemn it because your kind of cruising along and you're single and you got a few bucks, and that's all it's important to you. You're going to have to fit into that. If you stay in this country, you're going to have to fit into that structure some way, and you're going to have to bounce off of it just like a handball court and somewhere else it's it's going to be what you believe and how you walk out. That value system that's going to help you to fit in and somehow be a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem.

[00:46:55.830]

So, I encourage you in that area. Maybe tonight, if you get a few minutes, I shouldn't even tell you this, you get 400 things happening in this day. I look at the input of this conference. It's scary to me. But if you get a little time, sit down, and try to write down on just a pad somewhere. Maybe if you took any notes or you thought about it, write down under those, maybe just a little thing, things that in your mind are straight up and down areas of your life where you really feel

like you're plugged into the book. And maybe then write down some areas that are always a problem, maybe it's social life, maybe it's economic thinking, maybe it's being a crummy student when you could be a good student, maybe it's being a great student and not giving a rip about people, but some areas where you're struggling and write those down into tomorrow.

[00:47:36.510]

When we work on these charts, we'll try to work on some of that from your perspective. Okay? Thank you for just being a part and for listening. And hopefully tomorrow you'll be able to share, and we'll get into this thing a little stronger. Thank you. We're done. Take a break and we're going to do something else in a minute.