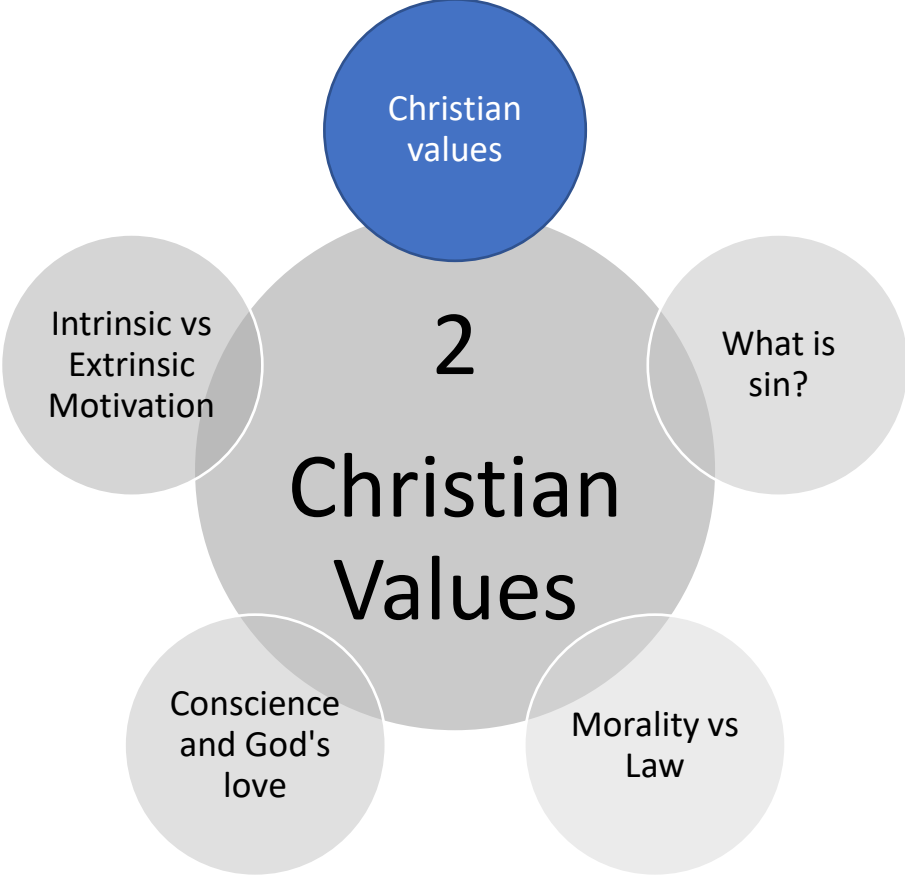




CSE TEAM

NOV 20, 2021



Lesson 2

CHRISTIAN VALUES - Grade 1-3

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
2A: My values reflect my identity	Major	Minor	Minor
2B: What is sin?	Minor	Minor	Major
2C: Conscience and God's love	Minor	Major	Major

- 2A: My values reflect my identity.
 - What are values?
 - Values are important and worthwhile.
 - They are standards we follow
 - They are things we care about and include our beliefs
 - They guide our behavior.
 - Our values should stay constant, and do not change with the situation or how others behave.
 - Where do values come from?
 - They come from God through the Bible, family, the church, early fathers' writings, and saints' biographies.
 - What are examples of Christian values?
 1. Love God: We love God and our church so much. How do we show God that we love Him? By obeying His commandments. One very important commandment is to obey our parents. Obeying your parents is one way to show God that we love Him. Can you think of something else that shows God that we love Him? Respecting His church. When we attend church, we act in our best behavior - we stand quietly during the liturgy. We listen and participate in the liturgy. We clean up after ourselves.
 2. Loving one another: We need to love one another as God loves us.
 3. Sharing: My parents set a rule that when we get a toy, we should share it. Sharing is caring and we love each other and share our toys. We learned this from God - because God loves us and gives us lots of blessings (our families, our school, our church, our health, our toys, etc.).
 4. Kindness: One of my family rules is to wait for each other and have supper together, what does your family do? This is an act of kindness that we do to each other.
 5. Respect: Always respect others. Know when to say Yes or No. Apologizing when we have wronged someone or hurt someone's feelings.
 6. Honesty: The bible tells us not to lie. We need to be honest: Like God, pure and holy. The Bible tells us not to take things that do not belong to us. One of the 10 commandments - do not steal.
 7. Holiness: The Bible tells us that our bodies are holy and precious— all parts of our body are precious and holy, including our private parts. Any parts of our body that our bathing suits cover should be considered areas that no one should touch or see. I should feel comfortable with my parents helping give me a bath or shower (until I am old enough to clean my body parts myself). If a doctor needs to examine my body parts, my parents should be there too, so I feel very safe and comfortable. Especially while I am too young to go to the doctor by myself.

8. Caring: I love others and myself. I take care of younger siblings when I can. I also make sure that I take care of myself. I make sure I am careful and try not to get hurt or hurt others intentionally.

Objective → To understand the most important Christian values and where they come from.

- 2B: What is sin?
 - Sin is deviation from God's will. This means that I go against what God says or I do the opposite of what God says to do.
 - When we get sick, we go to a doctor to give us medicine and feel better, also when we do something wrong, we should go to God and admit to Him what happened, and He will forgive us.
 - We should apologize and fix the mistake when we do something wrong.

Objective → To know correct definition of sin.

- 2C: Conscience and God's love.
 - Our conscience tells us when we are right and when we are wrong. Conscience is the inner voice in us that tells us do not do this or that.
 - The more we know God and understand His will in our lives; the clearer our conscience will be. The more we know God, the easier it will be for us to know what is right and wrong.
 - God is almighty and powerful. He seeks our friendship and love from all our hearts. We show Him that we love Him when we pray faithfully and want to talk to Him and spend time with Him. God's love is unlimited and unconditional, we just need to seek Him truthfully.
 - Christians' Conscience is led by the Holy Spirit.
 - As Christians, we get to know God through the Bible and the church.

Objective → To understand what fear of God means, the awe and reverences we ought to give "If you love me, keep my commandments" John 14:15



CHRISTIAN VALUES - Grade 4-6

	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
2A: My values reflect my identity	Minor	Major	Minor
2B: What is sin?	Major	Minor	Major
2C: Morality Vs law	Minor	Major	Minor
2D: Conscience and God's love	Major	Minor	Major
2E: Intrinsic vs extrinsic motivation	Major	Minor	Major

- 2A: My values reflect my identity.
 - What does the word VALUE mean?
 Something important to me. Standard I hold up high.
 - Values are things I place value on and think of as a precious thing.
 - They are more important than anything else, more important than happiness, than money and even feelings. They may include my Christian beliefs too because what I believe is important to me.
 - Why Do Values matter?
 Values give us skills to face trials, hardships or obstacles to overcome and help protect ourselves from sin.
 Values help us in making decisions: We think through an action before doing it and know the consequences.
 Values help us respect ourselves and others.
 Values give us a little nudge to act in a Christian way.
 Values are our guide in life, they shape our behavior.
 If I am ever unsure about something, I can ask "will this action, decision or word I am about to say make me more 'Holy'?" If yes, then that is a good action, or decision or word to be said. If the answer is no, then I should not act or decide in this sinful way. My words and how I speak also reflect my values and can make me more Holy or less holy and more sinful too.
 1 Thessalonians 4:3 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification"
 - Why do different people have different Values?
 Because WHO you are, defines your value system.
 Identity set values and values sets behavior.
 - Where do our Christian Values come from?
 Christian Values = God's Attributes = THE TRUTH and love – God is love.
 - What is the most valuable value that Jesus taught us?
 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength". (Deuteronomy 6:5)

 Jesus Himself demonstrated every type of love for us:
 - He cared and respected His mother St. Mary.
 - He loved His followers: He always cared to teach them & fed them (5 bread/2 fish).
 - He even loved His enemies. Ex: when He was on the cross.
 - "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34)

○ What is Self-Control?

The ability to manage our actions, feelings, and emotions.

The willpower to fight trials with the grace of God.

The ability to control, change and manage our thoughts.

Knowing when to say: "NO" or "Yes".

Gives us the strength to stop any sinful actions.

○ How to practice Self-Control?

STOP: Before any action you take, STOP and Breathe!

Usually when we are angry, we make wrong decisions.

THINK: Does my action go along with my values? Do I glorify God with this? Is it safe? WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Ask yourself: Will doing or saying this 'make me more Holy'?

ACT: When you are calm and feel you have Self-Control, then you can act according to your VALUES.

○ What is Self-Respect?

It is a feeling that I behave with honor and dignity.

It is the thought that "I respect myself".

I would not accept this on myself.

I do not do to others what I would not accept on myself.

I respect my body and never expose it.

Knowing my boundaries...And making sure that everyone around me know these boundaries.

Having a sense of Pride and Confidence in my Identity in Christ and my values: We have self-respect when we value ourselves, our beliefs, and our decisions.

○ Why is Self-Respect important?

I am the child of God and Jesus died for me.

I no longer seek to please others. I respect my body, my values, and my beliefs.

When I respect my body, my values, and my beliefs. It becomes easier to say "NO" to whatever is not healthy for me. (Example: saying no to "dirty jokes" or "sexting") (G6)

Makes it easier to respect others. A person with self-respect treats others how they want to be treated.

Helps me decide my relationships and friendships. (Cut off any disrespectful relationship).

Objective → To understand what Christian Values are, and how it shapes our lives.

● 2B: What is Sin?

○ Sin is deviation from God's will. Going against God's direction or doing the opposite of what God asks – it separates us from God.

○ To know if something is right or wrong, we need to know God's commandments.

○ Sin is disobeying God's commandments.

○ Consequences of sin is that it separates us from God, it takes us in a way that is completely different from the godly path.

[Servant may discuss: God commandments Vs our free will]

The purpose of God's commandments is our eternal salvation.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Objective → To understand the problem of sin and how it separates us from God.

- 2C: Christian virtues, morality, and civil law
 - The law forbids robbery. When a person is caught; he will be judged and sentenced.
 - Morality (Conscience) is knowing what is right and wrong.
 - Respecting others and property is an expectation in society (eg. School, work, at home, at stores, etc..)
 - Watching TV or YouTube scenes for people with inappropriate clothing, behaviors, actions, messages that are shameful to others, this is wrong. This is a disrespect to their bodies to show it this way. Our bodies are the temple of the Lord, and we should not conform to these sinful and offensive behaviors.
 - The Bible teaches us to honor and keep our bodies holy, when we do that, we respect God's commandment. The Bible also encourages us to not cause others to sin and by watching, 'liking' and 'following' videos or streaming of shameful things (behaviors, clothing, etc.), it encourages more sinful behaviors.
 - Christian virtue is choosing the truth in love by following Christ. Choosing to give, not just taking what is not yours.

Objective → To understand that we are ought not only to obey the law but also follow Christ. Law brings just life balance with no morals; Christianity brings love to the world.

- 2D: God's fear and respect
 - Respecting God
 - Awe: Takes our breath away and we are inspired in wonder of the Lord.
 - Respect: To think highly of and act in ways that show how esteemed God is in our humble eye's.
 - Reverence: Show honor, admiration, and appreciation.
 - Acknowledging His awesomeness and showing a deep respect and reverence for Him. (He loves us and respects us too)
 - When we fear and respect the Lord, because we love God, we want to follow HIM.
 - Use God's name should be always in a respectful manner and never in anger.

Objective → To correlate how glorious and mighty God is and to understand the correct meaning for fear of God.

- 2E: Intrinsic vs Extrinsic Motivation [do we follow God willingly or we were told to do so]
 - We are born Christian, but we need to choose to follow God.
 - When we pray, we pray to find God, to talk with Him and listen to Him, not because it is a duty to finish. It is a conversation or dialogue with Him, our beloved Father.

Objective → To inspire the children to do prayers, bible reading, liturgy out of love not to get the mark on spiritual note, being with God is the reward.



CHRISTIAN VALUES - Grade 7-9

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
2A: My values reflect my identity	Major	Minor	Major
2B: What is sin?	Minor	Major	Major
2C: Morality vs law	Major	Minor	Major
2D: Conscience vs respecting God	Minor	Major	Minor
2E: Intrinsic vs extrinsic motivation	Minor	Major	Major

2A: Christian values [*I am Christian because I follow Christ and He granted me a new nature in Baptism. My values have come from Christ*]

- The world's view of morals and values changes by many factors, not constant and they relate to each other and depend on different things, changing beliefs and how they relate to others. However, our Christian values come from God's attributes, that has been explained in the Bible. They are CONSTANT and do not change with time, generation, or culture. They are an absolute truth based in love and facts that are both historically and scientifically accurate.
- Right and wrong is based on God's commands. Since God does not change nor His commands, truth is absolute.
- Some people let go of what they believe in and agree to the relativity of truth! Other people adopt the notion to live by values that are not moral, and they know it!
- As Christians, we believe that God is our standard. Other people who do not believe in God or do not want God in their lives, believe that they are the standard of their own lives. Like in Genesis, the devil through the serpent told Adam and Eve, you will be like God. Those people are acting as if they are gods.
- Church Tradition and Early fathers of the church are a great source of Christian values explanation.
- Our values guide us to:
 - Create boundaries and take responsibility for our thoughts, feelings, behaviors and actions.
 - Make good decisions and choices.
 - Give us a sense of security as we have a reference.
 - Most important of all reach unity with God in our daily lives and to be with Him in heaven.

[The following 2 points are additional, please use as you see fit]

Self-respect

To behave with honor and dignity towards your body, mind, and soul.

Why do we respect ourselves? Because we are God's masterpiece!

When I respect God's gift to me; I respect God.

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Respect my body → Respect my body including my private parts. Take care of my body. Set boundaries and respect others' boundaries too. Be respectful in any talk, touch, or joke.

Respect my soul → My feelings, my thoughts. Even as I am going through puberty and getting new sexual desires or romantic thoughts, I respect those and remember God created them in me for a reason when the time is right.

Respect my spirit → Keep my daily prayer to connect with God. Continuously confess my mistakes to my father of confession.

“that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor” (1 Thessalonians 4:4)

Self-control

In the story of Joseph, why do you think Joseph refused to listen to Potiphar’s wife? Think about this young man who was hated by his brothers, probably no hope to return to his father. Wouldn’t he feel pity for himself and accept any love offered to him?! What made Joseph’s heart so full and not needing such wrongdoing?

Self-control is not about suppressing your feelings but rather be filled with love for God and let God guide your own will.

Objectives → To understand Christian values and set the value reference to God’s commands.

- 2B: What is sin?
 - Sin is deviation from God’s commandments.
 - The problem of sin is that it takes us far away from God’s path, and God’s way is our path. We are God’s creation. Our spirits cannot rest nor be at perfect peace in anything or anywhere without God.
 - God is the life giver; In Him alone we can have eternal life. When we deviate from God’s way, we head toward eternal death.
 - God is love and when we walk away from God, we walk away from love.
 - Losing inner peace and the fruits of the Holy Spirit are consequences of sin and the separation from God.
 - Ask yourself the question, when faced with any decision: “Will this action, thought, behavior make me more holy”?
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3 NKJV **“For this is the will of God, your sanctification”**
 -

Objective → To understand the problem of sin and how it leads to eternal death.

- 2C: Christian virtues, morality, and civil law
All cultures recognize values and morals.
Humans gravitate towards the morals and laws given by God because we are created in His image! When different people follow different religions, a civil law has to be in place to unify country rules.
Morality (Conscience)
Is built as a part of mankind’s nature. For Christians, the sense of conscience is usually driven by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, sometimes people choose to shut this voice in them. On the other hand, others abide with the work of the Holy Spirit. A great example of that is Cornelius (Acts 10 1-3).

God is the Law Giver. From the beginning of time, people deviate from that but us as Christians the bible is our law. What if the civil law contradicts God's commandments?

If the law permits abortion, does it make abortion right for us? Why not?

If the law permits Marijuana and alcohol consumption, does it make them right for us. Why? Christian virtues come from following the Truth.

Values are defined by my identity as a child of God and believer in Christ. Values are the most important principles to me. What is one value that is an important principle to you? My identity is that I am a Child of God and created per His image.

God is LOVE, our values are based on LOVE. What kind of love? God's love = Agape love (sacrificial love). All of the fruits of the Holy spirit; love, kindness, peace, self-control, etc. are based on LOVE.

Explanation 1

What is morality? Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong, or good and bad behavior.

Moral compass: It's an internal compass (the Conscience) that tells you what is the difference between right and wrong. It is what guides you through the values. Unlike the unbelievers, Christians are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in them. Their conscience is guided by the Holy Spirit.

What is the relationship between civil law and morality? Both are used to judge. Civil law is based on the world's view. Morality is based on God's view commandments.

Are morals relative or absolute? They are absolute because God does not change, God is the Truth, God is good.

Civil law organizes the life between people regardless of their religion with God's perspective. Sometimes the civil law legalizing laws that are against God's commandments like permitting abortion, cannabis consumption, and even changing the definition of marriage.

We look at good vs evil, right vs wrong, light vs darkness. For example, civil law can state that homosexuality sin is not evil, civil law can also state that abortion is not evil. So, we use morality to help us identify good and evil.

When you know God; you know what is good, and will be able to tell what is wrong.

You know what is evil, because you know what is good. You can not say that there is a crooked line unless you know that there is a straight line

When you live in purity and in light; you would be able to feel how bad darkness is.

What is Ethics: the way people behave based on how their beliefs about what is right and what is wrong influences their behavior.

Explanation 2

What is morality? Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong, or good and bad behavior.

Moral compass: It's an internal compass (the Conscience) that tells you what is the difference between right and wrong. It is what guides you through Christian values. Unlike the unbelievers, Christians are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in them. Their conscience is guided by the Holy Spirit.

What is the relationship between civil law and Christian values?

Civil law is concerned with civil rights. Christian values are concerned with God's commandment, the law of love and humility to everyone.

Are Christian values relative or absolute? They are absolute because they come from God and God does not change, God is the truth and He is unchangeable.

Sometimes the civil law legalizing laws that are against God's commandments like permitting abortion, cannabis consumption, and even changing the definition of marriage.

For example, civil law permits abortion.

When we know God more and fully understand His commandments, it will get easier for us to differentiate good from evil. We will know if a certain action/behavior is according to Christian values.

What is Ethics: the way people behave based on their beliefs about what is right and wrong which influences their behavior. You know what is evil, because you know what is good. You cannot say that there is a crooked line unless you know that there is a straight line

For discussion

Servants need to put an emphasis that as Christians we follow the constitutions and laws of our country. However when it comes to something like laws that oppose God's commandments, we need to have a wise counseling form on how to react toward this ????
(this needs to be clear in the mind of children)

Something being legalized does not mean that we should participate. We definitely follow all the civil laws that protect us and keep the order of the well-being of the country.

Objectives → Have the youth realize that the civil law does not always fulfill God's plan. Our law is God's word, and our reference is the Bible.

- 2D: God's fear and respect

The bible teaches us the true meaning of fearing God. **"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate."** (Proverbs 8:13)

King Solomon, the one whom God granted to be the wisest, explained through the Holy Spirit **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."** (Proverbs 1:7)

God is love and just.

People who chose to live in sin, they chose to lose Heaven.

For example, if you broke the traffic law, you chose to get the consequence for breaking the law.

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;" (Philippians 2:12)

The fear of losing the precious life with God.

Now when I do good, is it because:

I am afraid of God, and I want to avoid the consequences.

Or

I am afraid of God; I seek His rewards.

Or

I am afraid that I lose the relationship with God and unity with God is my reward.

Objectives → To understand the correct meaning of fearing God.

- 2E: Intrinsic vs Extrinsic Motivation [*do we follow God willingly or we were told to do so*]
Intrinsic motivation involves doing something because it is personally rewarding to you. Extrinsic motivation involves doing something because you want to earn a reward or avoid consequence. Why do I follow God?
Out of love, God is a father, I am his son by adoption.
Not fear of consequence, God is the master, and I am a slave. ***Servant to explain why Cain's sacrifice was not acceptable.***
Not seeking rewards, God is like a vending machine/employee.
Fearing punishment, seeking reward, to enjoy a happy life or because I am told to do so = are all examples of extrinsic influences.
Intrinsic: We are to follow Christian ethics because the intrinsic forces are based on your identity as a child of God and I love God, my Father.

Fearing Punishment? No
Seeking Reward? No
Needing Help? No
Enjoying Happy Life? No
Because I am told so? No
Because God loves me, and I love Him? Yes.

Moralistic therapeutic Deism: (moralistic: We should be good, moral people. (Not born-again followers of Jesus Christ – just, you know, “Good people”??) Therapeutic: the goal of this religion is to provide therapeutic benefits to its adherents. Not to worship, adore, and obey the living God. God wants us to feel good about ourselves and have high self-esteem.
Deism: God exists and created the world but then kind of just leaves us alone unless we need him to fix a problem or provide us with something.

1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one’s life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

Objectives → To Understand how our church’s teaching is different from moralistic therapeutic deism.

References:

Fr Anthony Messeh - Faith In Action Part 1 | Believe In God, But I Don't Fear Him
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdt53p1g-nQ&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=mauricecyril)

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

<https://youtu.be/KmDB000H1E>

Deism chapter in “The Universe Next Door”, a Book for James W. Sire

