



## Values

Romans 12:9-10

Wayne Braudrick

January 11, 2025

Life Change: We live by God's values

Various places have values

In Christ's universal church, we:

Rom 12:9-10

Value sincere love

Detest evil

Cling to good

A child who constructs an adult identity while drawing from a stable and time-tested set of values, beliefs, and stories, given to her by trusted adults within a religious or philosophical tradition, will fare far better than a child who attempts to construct an adult identity by herself while drawing from a billion pieces of short and ephemeral content, produced mostly by young people and bots, which cannot be assembled into a coherent worldview. – Jonathan Haidt, “The Devil’s Plan to Ruin the Next Generation”

Love one another deeply as siblings

Honor others first

**Assessment based on Aristotle's idea of a Golden Mean**

Issue: sincere love requires unhypocritical sacrifice

Deficiency

Virtuous Agape

Excess

Issue: detesting evil requires obedience

Deficiency

Virtuous Obedience

Excess

Issue: clinging to good requires knowing right from wrong

Deficiency

Goodness by Grace

Excess

Issue: loving deeply requires commitment

Deficiency

Virtuous Commitment

Excess

Issue: honoring others requires humility

Deficiency

Virtuous Humility

Excess

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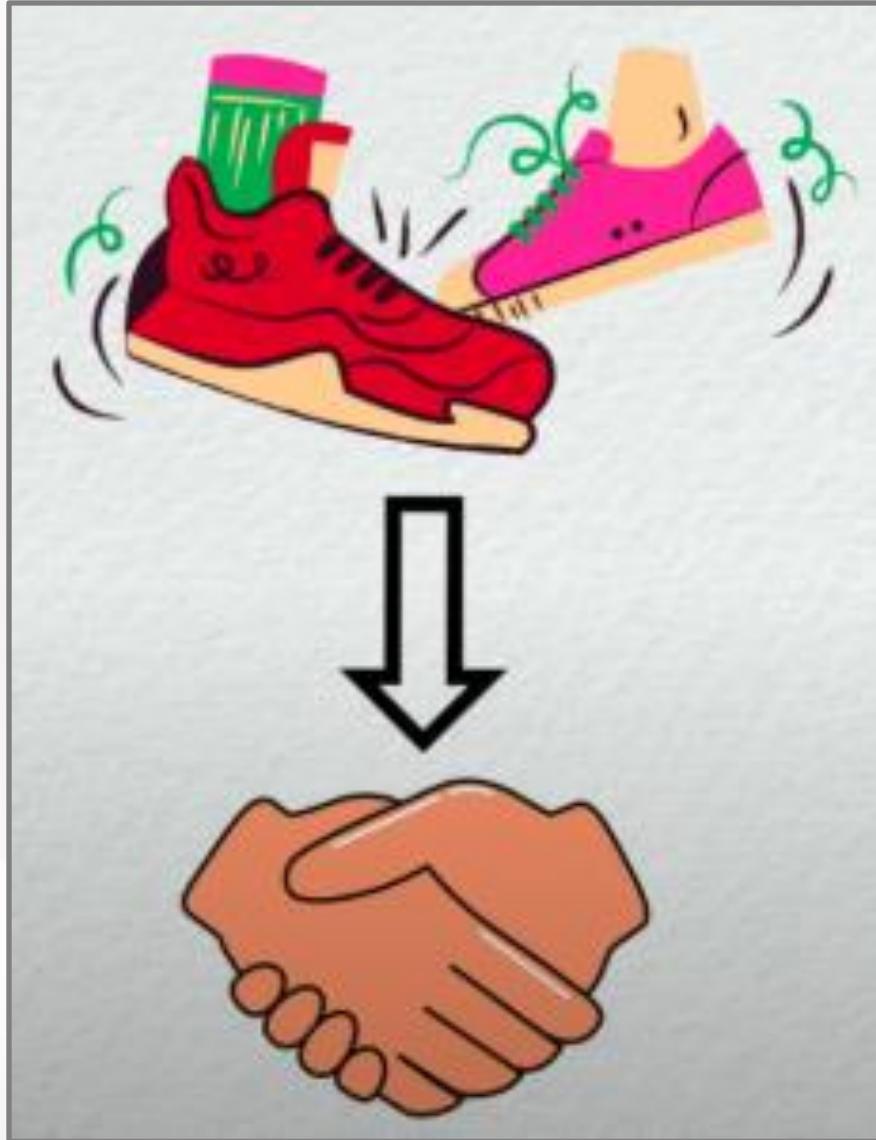
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**VALUE**

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE**



**It's cricket to go 25, get a ticket if faster you drive.**



**In Mongolia, if you step on someone's foot, even accidentally, immediately apologize and shake hands. Otherwise, you have just declared war on him and his family.**



**Klobásník**



**Koláčky**



courtesy tech9bees

## The Bible on value:

- Humans are valued by God.
- Those who trust Him develop certain values.



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# VALUE

- That allows them to create value.

A Christian is automatically incorporated into the universal body of Christ (what our ancestors called “the invisible Church”). As with any place of belonging, there are certain values indicative of The Church. These are not legalisms, but rather character qualities rooted in God’s eternal and good character. The scripture reveals these values and impresses upon us the importance of living accordingly for optimum flourishing.

Valued.



Value.



Values.



**<sup>9</sup> Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.**

**Romans 12 CSB**

**<sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.**

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**Romans 12 CSB**

Greek: ἀνυπόκριτος anypokritos = authentic; unfeigned; sincere

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Romans 12 CSB

Greek: ἀγάπη agape = other-centered, self-sacrificial affection

**V = value**  
**P = price**

$$\frac{V}{P} \geq 1 \text{ (yes)}$$

$$\frac{V}{P} < 1 \text{ (no)}$$

**Heartsill Wilson's  
value formula**



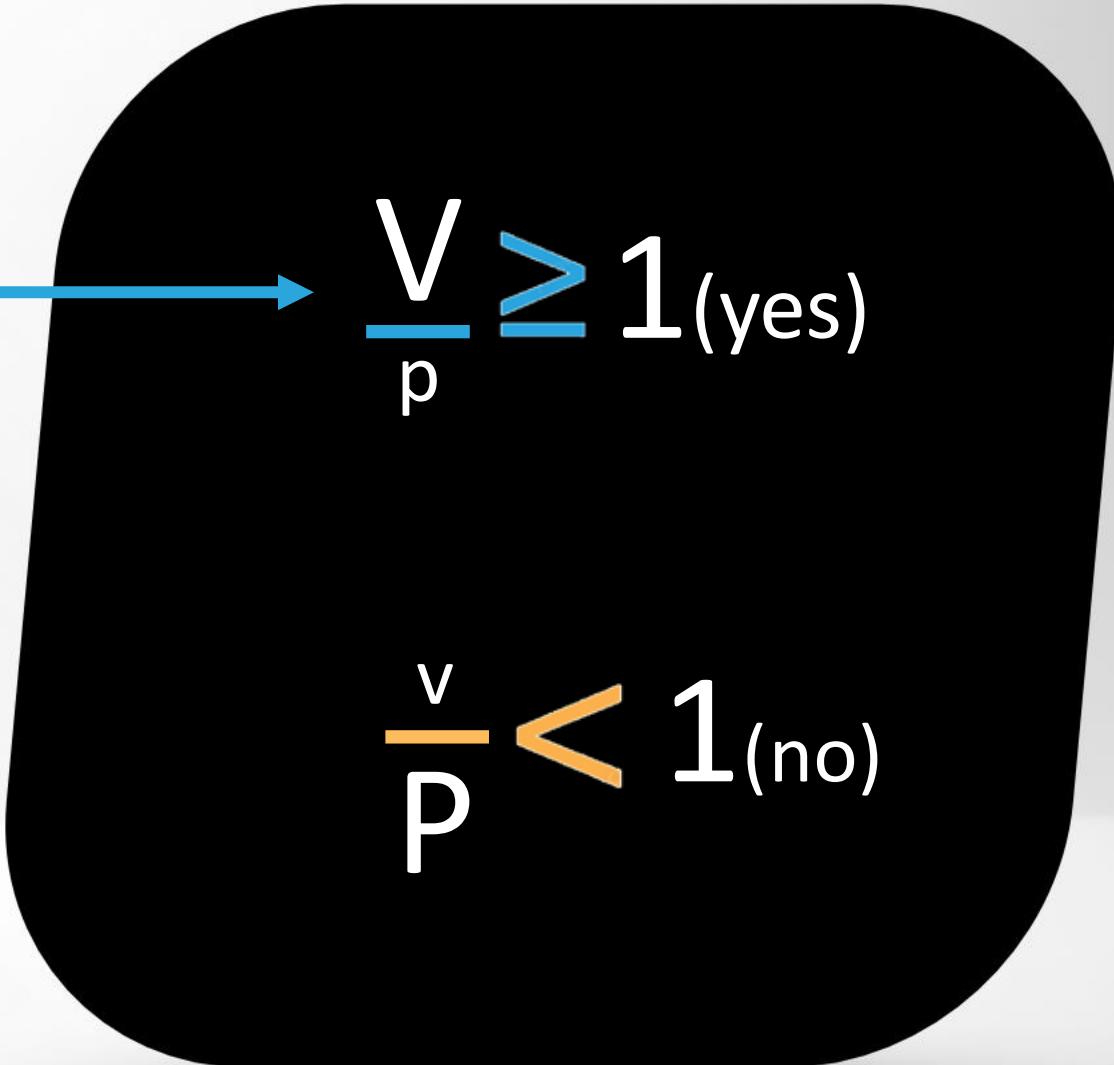
The cross appears to be a negative proposition.

There is nothing more precious than God, so a drop of His blood is an unthinkable high price.

$$\frac{V}{p} \geq 1 \text{ (yes)}$$

$$\frac{V}{P} < 1 \text{ (no)}$$

God declares  
that the cross is  
actually a  
positive  
formula. God  
sees the value  
of saving a  
person as  
worth the price  
He pays.


$$\frac{V}{P} \geq 1 \text{ (yes)}$$
$$\frac{V}{P} < 1 \text{ (no)}$$

$$\infty \frac{V}{P} < 1 \text{ (no)}$$

**1 Corinthians 6:20 says “we were bought with a price.” Since that price was Christ himself, we can assign P the value of infinity to represent Jesus’ inestimable worth. But if the denominator P is infinity, the equation will never be positive. The result will never be equal to or greater than 1.**

**– Michael Berry**

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**1 Corinthians 6:20** says “we were bought with a price. Since that price was Christ himself, we can assign P the value of infinity to represent Jesus’ inestimable worth. But if the denominator P is infinity, the equation will never be satisfied. The result will never be equal to or greater than 1. Unless...the numerator is *also* raised to infinity. That value change can only occur if something external raises the worth of V infinitely. – Michael Berry

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**7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe.**

**1 Peter 2 NASB**

$$\frac{\infty}{\infty} \frac{V}{P} \geq 1 \text{ (yes)}$$

**The Bible proclaims God's continued sacrifices and intervention for us every day forever, which makes His price infinitely realized. Our value is likewise infinitely experienced as we are incorporated in God's eternal family. Being in Christ truly is infinity over infinity.**

**– Charles Basham**

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$$\infty \frac{V}{P} \geq 1$$

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Romans 12 CSB

Greek: ἀγάπη agape = other-centered, self-sacrificial affection

Greek: ἀποστυγέω apostygeo = shudder with loathing



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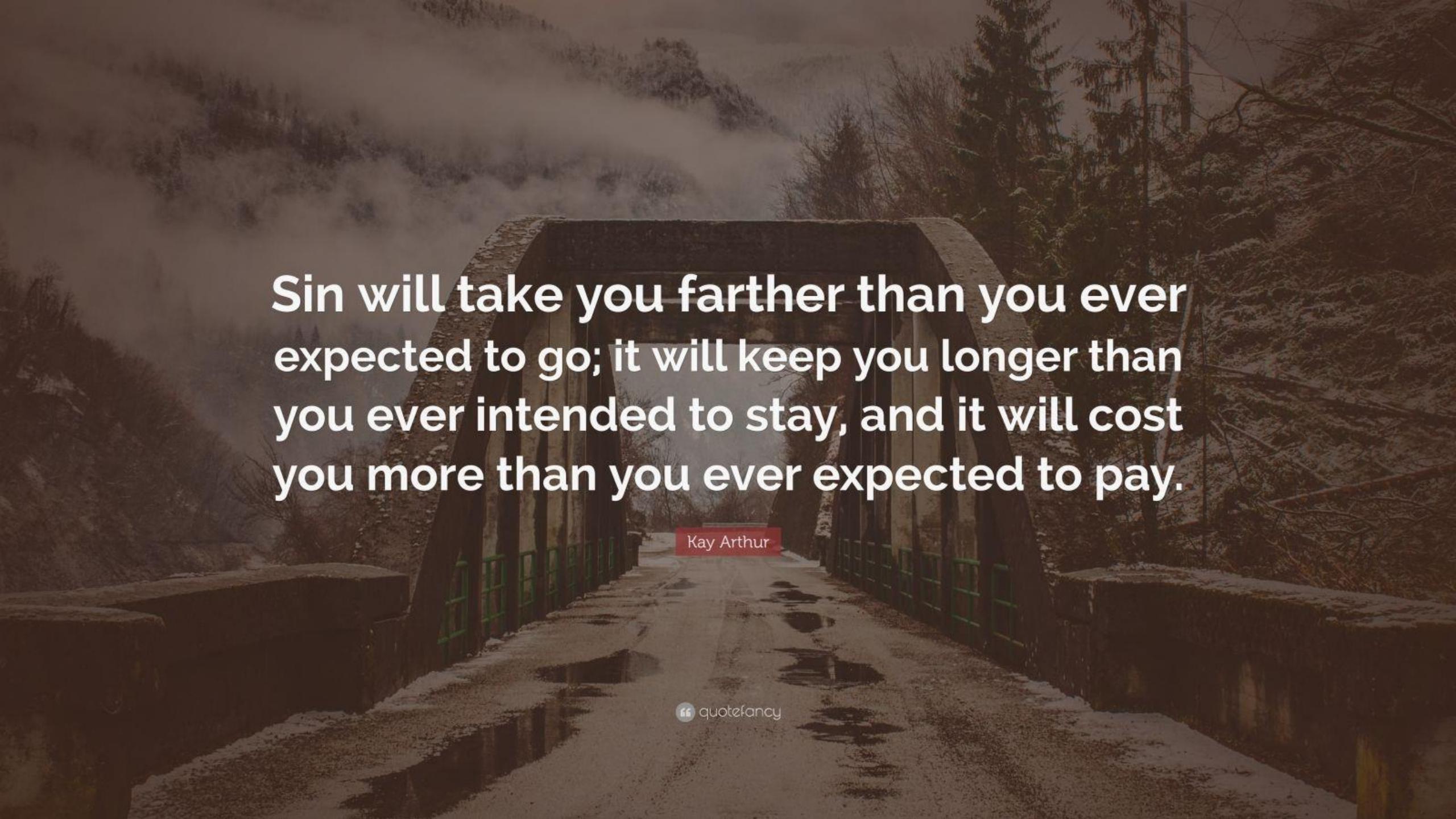
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Romans 12 CSB

**Most of the time, most of us do not abhor evil. We dislike evil; we don't condone it. But hate it? Have our stomachs churn because of it? Not often. We adopt our culture's tolerance of sin and instead of hating evil we merely dislike the consequences of evil. – Thomas Campbell**





**Sin will take you farther than you ever expected to go; it will keep you longer than you ever intended to stay, and it will cost you more than you ever expected to pay.**

Kay Arthur

**Wayne, the original story was about learning to detest evil. In the Brothers Grimm version, Red ignores her mother's command, redefines the wickedness of wolves and therefore heeds the wolf's suggestion to leave the path. The result is being swallowed by the wolf!**





**If it were not for the serendipitous arrival of the huntsman, Little Red would have remained in the belly of the beast. Granted new life, she remembers the wickedness of wolves and refuses to listen to the next one she meets.**

**– Michelle Russell**

**Spend lonely nights  
Poisoned through and through  
It's all what you do  
When no one is there  
It's all what you do  
When no one cares**

**Lord, I'm wondering  
If what you're telling me  
Is I got work to do  
Yes, I got work to do**

**“Integrity Blues”  
by Jim Adkins**

courtesy inspired pencil



**jimmy eat world**

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Romans 12 CSB

In virtute sola bonum, [In virtue alone is good.]  
– Cicero, *de Finibus*



**Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Isaiah 5:20**

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Romans 12 CSB

If one doesn't know the difference between bad and good, it leads to emptiness. We think an absence of values brings freedom. In reality, lack of clinging to good eventually leaves a person feeling meaningless.

**Percent of U.S. 12th-graders that agree with the statement “Life often feels meaningless.”**



**2024 results**



**A child who constructs an adult identity while drawing from a stable and time-tested set of values, beliefs, and stories, given to her by trusted adults within a religious or philosophical tradition, will fare far better than a child who attempts to construct an adult identity by herself while drawing from a billion pieces of short and ephemeral content, produced mostly by young people and bots, which cannot be assembled into a coherent worldview.**

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Greek: φιλόστοργος philostorgos = Love deeply  
phileo [brotherly love] + storge [family attachment]

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Romans 12 CSB

Philostorgos is the attachment of family that can't be broken coupled with genuine affection for the family, even when they drive you bonkers.

**Philostorgos is the attachment of family that can't be broken coupled with genuine affection for the family, even when they drive you bonkers.**



**If you were the devil, how would you destroy the next generation, without them even knowing it? – person**

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**Encourage digital substitutes for friendship, love, and intimacy. People will accumulate “connections” while feeling lonelier than ever. Superficial bonds are easier to monetize and manipulate than the deep ties of family, friendship, and community. Eventually, they may not realize what real connection feels like. – AI ChatGPT**



courtesy playcatchmovement; due south

**Some of the activities that are known to strengthen bonds, such as physical touch, sharing a meal, and synchronous movement, are impossible online. But don't worry! The tech industry has a cure for the diseases it causes. As Mark Zuckerberg explained, the average American has fewer than three friends but wants 15. Meta's AI companions will fill that gap! And it's not just for friends. Meta's AIs were specifically permitted to engage in “sensual conversations” with children, according to a leaked internal policy memo that was approved by Meta's full leadership. – Jonathan Haidt, “The Devil's Plan to Ruin the Next Generation”**

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**Nick Fuentes**

**Percent of U.S. 12th-graders that agree with the statement “Life often feels meaningless.”**



**2024 results**



He is far away from scripture in many ways, especially his hatred of Jews; yet thousands of Christians follow him. Why?

Formation requires relationship, time, and community. You can't form someone by calling them racist online. You form them in parishes, in friendships, in accountability. The reason Fuentes has influence is that the Church abandoned its job. We stopped forming young men. We stopped teaching virtue. We stopped offering them something worth living for, so they went looking elsewhere. [One] cannot defeat bad ideas with moral smugness [or] by borrowing secular "morality." Bad ideas are not defeated by better ideas, as the old liberal adage claims. Bad ideas are defeated by truth spoken in love. – Pat Neve, "Why Piers Morgan Couldn't Beat Nick Fuentes"

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**Romans 12 CSB**

**2025 exposed sad fractures within the universal church. Social media rewarded outrage over restraint. Leaders attacked one another publicly. Disagreements escalated into accusations of heresy, betrayal, or cowardice. The result was not clarity, but cynicism. – John Hurt**



courtesy bozic

**Well done, son. Standing first is exactly what God means when he tells us to ‘take the lead in honoring each other.’**

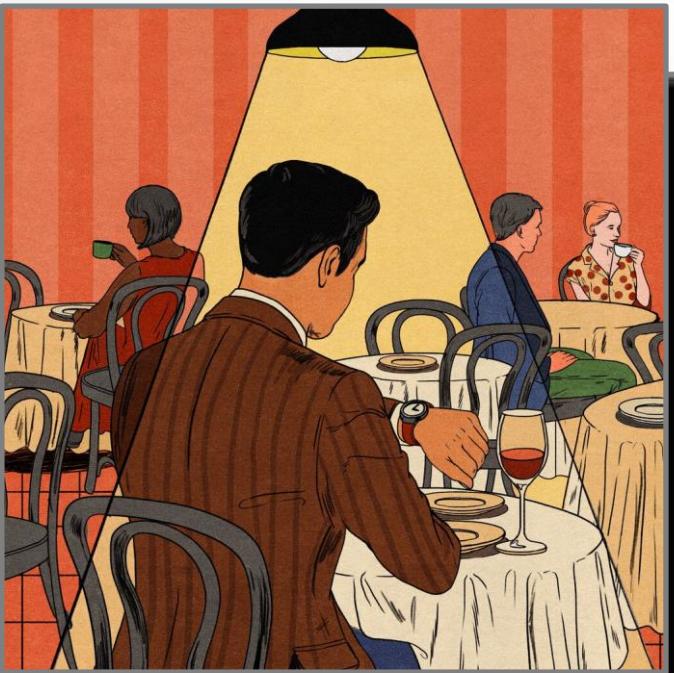


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There is a natural path to success, Aaron. But you're too angry and bitter to follow it. You just flail around stubbornly in the brush alongside it, angry with the world for not making the path exactly where you wish to walk.

– Lisa McMann, *Island of Silence*



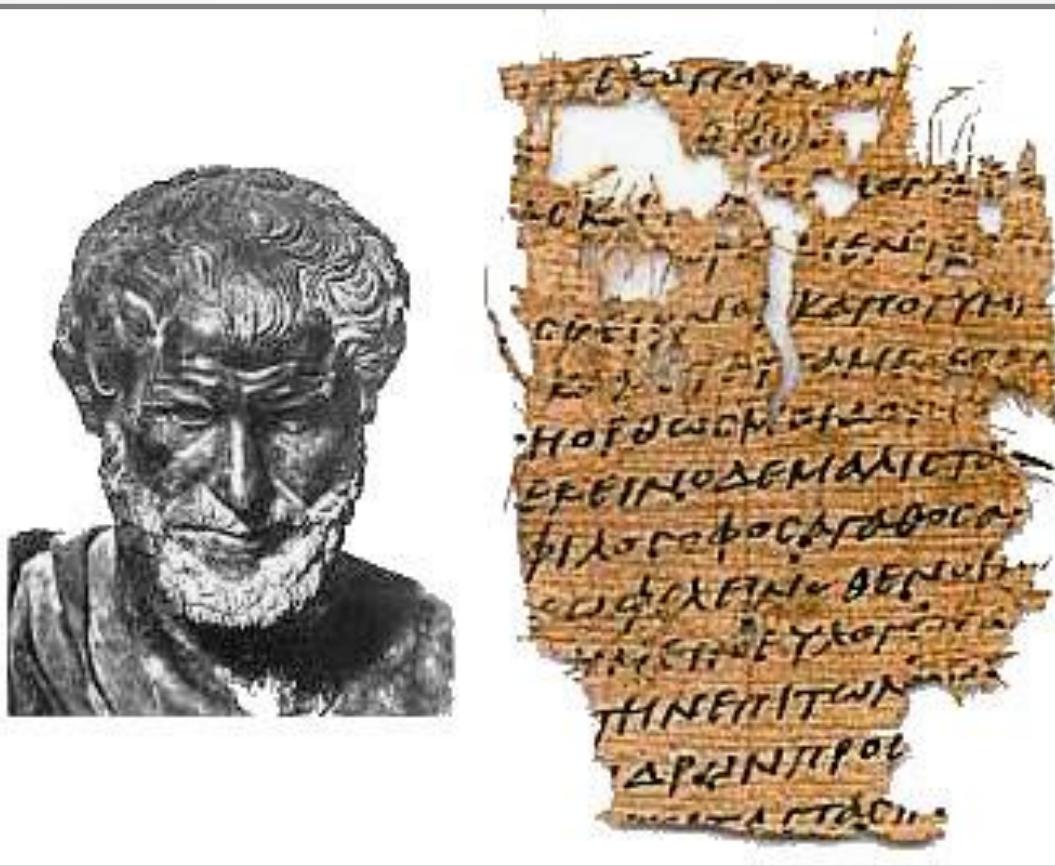
**Technology makes backing out frictionless. And that, I think, is what's made me reconsider my position on canceled plans. The ease with which we can back out via text renders every plan a phantom. It makes it possible, whether we mean it or not, to treat our relationships with a lack of commitment. And, crucially, easy asynchronous communication allows us to be careless with other people's time. My friend Indrani pointed out how she bristles when someone cancels plans by saying, "I'm freeing up your evening!" as if assuming she had other options when she was truly looking forward to seeing them.**

**Brad Stulberg wrote a lovely guest essay for Times Opinion a couple of years ago about the importance of showing up, even if it's a drag. The ultimate goal in keeping plans, he says, is creating community — a necessary component, we're reminded over and over, to happiness and longevity. This may involve giving up some control of our time in the short term in the interest of giving our lives meaning in the long run.**

**Making plans and then actually showing up, even if we're spent or cranky, is a simple way of acting with integrity. There's so much that's unsteady in the world, so much that feels inconstant. Being a dependable presence, keeping our word and our plans, is a small but indisputable way of resisting that.** – Melissa Kirsch, “Following Through” in NYTimes October 12, 2025



- Value sincere love.
- Detest evil.
- Cling to what is good.
- Love one another deeply as family.
- Honor others first.



**Aristotle famously depicted virtues as a golden mean between a misunderstood excess and deficiency of a quality. Of course, his idea does not carry the weight of scripture, but it had huge sway among our forebears in the Church.**



**Evil consists in discordance from their rule or measure. Now this may happen either by their exceeding the measure or by their falling short of it...Therefore it is evident that moral virtue observes the mean.**

**– *Summa Theologica, Question 64 of the Prima Secundæ***

Issue: sincere love requires unhypocritical sacrifice.

*Deficiency:* smarminess; sarcasm; closed-off

*Sincerity:* agape

*Misunderstood excess:* fake it until you make it; forced affection

Place a mark where you appear to operate most of the time.

Deficiency

Virtuous agape

Excess

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**Issue: detesting evil requires obedience.**

***Deficiency:*** Little Red disobeyed & left the path to Grandma's

***Detesting evil:*** shuddering at evil inside and outside self

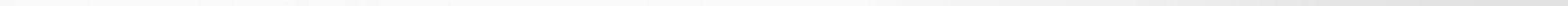
***Misunderstood excess:*** withdrawal; refusing to leave home

**Place a mark where you appear to operate most of the time.**

**Deficiency**

**Virtuous obedience**

**Excess**



**Issue: clinging to what is good requires knowing right from wrong.**

***Deficiency:*** right as determined by culture and/or self

***Clinging to good:*** dedicated to goodness by God's grace

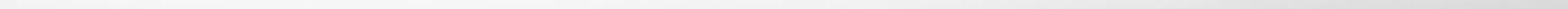
***Misunderstood excess:*** self-righteous judgment re: others' ways of clinging

**Place a mark where you appear to operate most of the time.**

**Deficiency**

**Goodness by grace**

**Excess**



## Issue: loving deeply requires commitment.

*Deficiency:* commitment limited to what I get from the family

*Commitment:* engaged and embracing family bonds despite pains

*Misunderstood excess:* controlling; co-dependent

Place a mark where you appear to operate most of the time.

Deficiency

Virtuous commitment

Excess



## Issue: honoring others requires humility.

*Deficiency:* jealous or blind to the merits of others; busy building self

*Humility:* accurate & stable recognition of value in Christ; know own gifts & flaws

*Misunderstood excess:* absorbed with comparison; derailed by failings

Place a mark where you appear to operate most of the time.

Deficiency

Virtuous humility

Excess

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**Aristotle argued that happiness is attained by action in accord with virtue. While the empirical study of virtues is relatively new, there is now reasonably good evidence that the exercise of virtue does indeed, perhaps unsurprisingly, contribute to greater happiness. – Tyler J. VanderWeele, Director of the Center for Human Flourishing, Harvard University**



Valued.

Value.



Values.



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