

## Exercising Godly Influence: Values & Expressions (Leader’s Notes and Answer Key – Handout Below)

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### Values & Expressions

In spiritual friendship and accountability, it is important for us to:

1. Correctly using Scripture, articulate all values under Jesus’ Lordship
2. Hold multiple values in tension
3. Understand that a value can have multiple faithful expressions
4. Emphasize a value strongly, and allow for the appropriate level of freedom in its expression

### Case Studies

What would your process be in these situations? And how would you advise these people? Assume high trust between you and the student.

1. One of your friends tells you that she hasn’t spoken with her roommate in over a week. You know that her roommate is not a Christian. The conflict seems to revolve around noise level, having friends over, courtesy, and mismatching schedules. She has tried to work things out with her roommate before, but they’ve not been able to agree thus far.

All relevant values, and relevant Scripture	How some values may be in tension	Is there more than one possible faithful expression for each value? What are they?
<p><b>Evangelism:</b> (e.g. Mt.28:16-20, Lk.24:44-49) above all else, the non-xian roommate needs Jesus and a good witness to him</p> <p><b>Reconciliation:</b> (Rom.12:18, Mt.5:21-26) Healthy interpersonal relations are vital.</p> <p><b>Feeling legitimate anger:</b> (Eph.4:26) To have self-respect and an appropriate level of love for oneself. Excessive and prolonged anger will prevent evangelism and reconciliation from happening.</p>	<p>No real tensions, but excessive and prolonged anger will prevent evangelism and reconciliation from happening</p>	<p>Valuing reconciliation and evangelism does not mean that they have to live together. Ultimately, next year, the two of them could choose to not room together. But this is to be done in a way that the Christian roommate can still be friends with the non-Christian roommate.</p> <p>One consideration, though, is that she should not leave her roommate in a bad financial situation by leaving mid-year and putting it on her to find another roommate. High priority is to be given to existing commitments.</p>

2. A friend of yours, one of the best musicians, decides to step off the worship team. He wants to be a part of a theatre group putting on a play. The group was really excited about him being a part of the team.

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<p><b>Evangelism:</b> (e.g. Mt.28:16-20, Lk.24:44-49) Proclaiming Jesus’ lordship – it’s important to view all situations and friendships as open to evangelism. If the student wants to do something with non-xians where he doesn’t have to think about evangelism, then he needs to be challenged about that. If the student is going into</p>	<p>Evangelism vs. leadership development</p>	<p>Evangelism has more than one expression: He can do evangelism in the theatre group or as part of the worship team, or both.</p>

<p>theatre with a desire to do evangelism, then this would be a good choice, as consistent with the value of evangelism as staying on the worship team.</p> <p><b>Leadership Development</b> (e.g. Jesus and the disciples - Lk.5:1-11, Paul and Timothy - 2 Tim.1:6): Worship leading needs development, just like many other gifts and skills.</p> <p><b>Effective Time Management</b> (Eph.5:15-20, Rom.13:8-13): Is it possible for this person to do both without getting burned out? Could he cut out TV watching, etc.?</p>		<p>Leadership development has more than one expression: If you are willing to spend the extra time to mentor him, it can also happen outside of the formal team structure (read a book together, debrief events, etc.)</p> <p>Inquire about the time management questions.</p>
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3. A friend says that he wants to make a lot of money as a doctor so he can fund overseas missions.

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<p><b>Evangelism &amp; Missions</b> (e.g. Mt.28:16-20, Lk.24:44-49): The guy has/is developing a heart for God's heart for the world (global missions)! One question, though, is whether he has considered whether he should go overseas himself, rather than only fund other efforts. And what about missions here on campus? What better way to get trained?</p> <p><b>Generosity</b> (Lk.21:1-4): He also has a desire to be generous! But he may have a distorted view of how God sees it: God does not see the absolute dollars, but the dollars relative to what we have and make, like Jesus valued the poor widow giving 2 coins. Thus, from Jesus' perspective, he does not have to make and give a lot of money, which would trap him in cycles of dependence on his paycheck.</p> <p><b>Contentment in one's position</b> (Lk.12:13-34, Acts 3:1-10, 1 Cor.7:17-35): He could be a doctor if he is skilled enough, but he does not necessarily need to be a doctor either. His ambition could be unhealthy, too. People need to be content with their level of ability and not push themselves to reach a goal that is only possible at the cost of lots of other things. Obedience in the future is not a substitute for obedience now.</p> <p><b>Parents:</b> This is only a possibility – see the explanation on the right. If he is in conflict with his parents about this, and if parental approval is an issue, then the question is, 'If this is not the issue that will cause Jesus to redefine the relationship between you and your parents, then what will?' This, too, is a lordship of Jesus issue. Jesus wants to be lord directly over him, not through his parents.</p>	<p>No values in tension, but values need to be clarified so his response can be understood when there is clarity.</p>	<p>All the values have multiple expressions.</p> <p>Also, you have to look at the spiritual momentum of this person. If last week he was saying, "I just want to make a lot of money," and now he's saying this, then praise God and encourage your friend! But if this person was saying that he'd personally go overseas until a conflict occurred with his parents, then he might be backing off into a comfortable place.</p>

4. A friend goes on spring break urban plunge and is thoughtfully convicted. At the same time, she says that she's not sure if she wants to do urban ministry because it seems too demanding. (Alternatively, she spends time with a Christian inner city multi-service center – a homeless shelter, soup kitchen, legal advocacy center, small health clinic, kids afterschool program – and is thoughtfully convicted...)

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<p><b>Missions &amp; Ethnicity:</b> (e.g. Lk.4:14-30) Since the city is filled with various people-groups that maintain connection with their countries of origin, the city is important in that way.</p> <p><b>Generosity:</b> (e.g. Lk.6:27-36;21:1-4) One of the goals of exposure to urban ministry is to impress students with models of simple and generous kingdom living.</p> <p><b>Justice, Reconciliation &amp; Mercy:</b> (e.g. Lk.14:12-14) Urban ministry highlights systemic and interpersonal injustices, race- and ethnicity-related problems, and what Jesus does in response through us. We hope she chooses to integrate the above values with her major, career, and lifestyle choices. Who knows what role she could play in the future?</p> <p><b>Parents:</b> If she is in conflict with her parents about this, and if parental approval is an issue, then the question is, ‘If this is not the issue that will cause Jesus to redefine the relationship between you and your parents, then what will?’ This, too, is a lordship of Jesus issue. Jesus wants to be lord directly over her, not through her parents.</p>	<p>It is important to note that one does not need to drop out of school in order to be committed to missions, simplicity, justice, etc. That is possible, of course, but not necessarily for everyone.</p> <p>It is also possible that one’s parents might be in tension with the other values.</p>	<p>All the values have multiple expressions. Urban ministry is not for everyone to do, but it is for everyone to care about, simply because of the realities of the city and all the issues it brings up. So if she is still seeking to give financially, grow in ethnic awareness, care about institutional injustice, etc. then that’s great! If, however, she wants to leave the values behind completely, then she needs to be challenged to find constructive ways to express those values, even though she may not personally do urban ministry.</p>

5. A female small group leader has started to sleep over regularly at her boyfriend’s place (he is also a leader in the fellowship) but assures you they are not having sex. She says that another woman in her small group actually respects her more because of this.

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<p><b>Marriage:</b> (e.g. Heb.13:4; Gen.2:4-26) Fundamentally, the Christian view of marriage is that explicit lifelong commitment, sexual intimacy, and shared life (‘living together’) all go together exclusively and are not meant to be separated into token aspects.</p> <p><b>Evangelism &amp; Witness:</b> (e.g. 1 Th.5:22, Mt.28:16-20, Lk.24:44-49) We are told to avoid the appearance of evil (and certainly repent from real evil – both of which are involved in this case). This avoidance of evil (by honoring marriage) will advance Jesus’ mission among many groups, for example, Muslims, Orthodox Jews, etc. We must not forget that we are called to witness to more than the liberal, permissive people around us who might think there is nothing wrong with this behavior.</p> <p><b>Community &amp; Confession:</b> (e.g. 1 Jn.1:6-10) This</p>	<p>The values are not in tension.</p>	<p>The value on marriage necessitates that they stop this behavior. Someone needs to explain Christian marriage to them if they don’t understand this. This is reinforced by value of evangelism.</p> <p>Confession should be done if they think that they have misled others. The value on community and confession should have been made clear to them <i>before</i> they agreed to leadership positions. If this is not the case, then you need to explain this value in more</p>

<p>behavior could have misled other believers, probably those in their small groups, into thinking it was ok. Both need to correct that misunderstanding through confession to those affected. It is not necessary to confess it to the whole fellowship.</p> <p><b>Leadership Development</b> (e.g. James 3:1-2): Leaders are not expected to be perfect, but they are expected to acknowledge when they make mistakes. They should also be the first to receive restoration, if they are willing to renew their commitment to honoring marriage.</p>		<p>depth.</p>
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6. It's March, and Summit is coming up (assume you go in May). You ask one of your sophomores (who just came to Jesus during fall semester) if she's going. She says that she's already bought her plane ticket without taking Summit into consideration. She asks what it'll be about.

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<p><b>Leadership Development:</b> (e.g. Jesus and the disciples - Lk.5:1-11, Paul and Timothy - 2 Tim.1:6) Jesus values our training as disciples/ministers, and Summit is one place where that can happen. The same can be said for the values of <b>Prayer</b>, study of <b>Scripture</b>, and <b>Community</b> with other members of the fellowship. It is important to note that there are other opportunities to grow in these values, too, and not just at Summit. Also, the cost of Summit (\$200) may seem high, but investing in one's career is higher (perhaps \$30k/yr?), and our spiritual development is just as important!</p> <p><b>Community:</b> This may be an opportunity for others in the fellowship to step in and help. Especially for a new believer. They could pay for the cost of rescheduling the plane ticket. They could help with transportation and storing stuff.</p>	<p>The values are not in tension</p>	<p>All the values have multiple expressions. Ultimately, while we can plug Summit as a great experience and a good way to grow in these values, the choice is up to her. If she chooses not to go, you may want to follow up and say that there is material there that you would want to email to her. Thus, at least the values of Scripture and Leadership Development can be deepened if she says yes to that.</p>

7. An Exec member gets drunk two weekends in a row. You find out after the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. He is not a close friend of yours, but you two can talk.

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<p><b>No drunkenness:</b> (Rom.13:13, Eph.5:18) Drinking alcohol alone is not a problem, but drunkenness is. Getting drunk is an act of adopting another lord (self, and alcohol) for a certain time. Thus, this is a lordship issue.</p>	<p>The values are not in tension, but the immediate priority is on the person's healing,</p>	<p>This is a case where the value is the expression: don't get drunk.</p> <p>Thus, a person should be able to identify for</p>

<p><b>Holy-Spirit filled speech:</b> (Eph.5:18) Drunkenness impairs our ability to hear rightly from God and to be His vessel.</p> <p><b>Loving others:</b> (Rom.13:8-13) Drunkenness impairs our ability to relate to others, understand them, and minister to them.</p> <p><b>Healing:</b> (Mt.7:1-6) Alcohol is often an escape from some pain. For example, if this person lost a loved one recently, this might explain the drunkenness. Furthermore, this friend seems to be behaving in a way that is out of character. He has a speck in his eye. It is important not to approach him with a log in ours.</p> <p><b>Community &amp; Confession:</b> (e.g. 1 Jn.1:6-10) This behavior could have misled other believers into thinking it was ok. S/he needs to correct that misunderstanding through confession to those affected. It is not necessary to confess it to the whole fellowship.</p>	<p>and not approaching this in a judgmental and condescending way.</p>	<p>him/herself when alcohol is having an effect: impaired ability to think, pray, relate to, care for others.</p> <p>The person may (or may not) fundamentally need some kind of care, healing, counseling, depending on whether there is a deeper underlying issue. For example, if this person lost a loved one, they may simply need support, connection, a process of grief, and prayer.</p>
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## Shaping the Inner Life: Values & Expressions

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