

Unit #2 Decision Making / Lesson #1

Values – Definition & Clarification

PURPOSE: The purpose of this lesson is to make a plan and then acting upon the decision in a decision making strategy.

OBJECTIVE: Upon completion of this lesson, the participant will:

1. 100% of the time identify the four tests of a value as:
 - A. Values are freely chosen,
 - B. Values are a strong element of personal identity
 - C. A person will fight to defend their values,
 - D. Values are slow and difficult to change.
2. 100% of the time identify the five (5) primary categories of values to be:
 - A. Personal values,
 - B. Family and inner circle of friends values
 - C. Corporate values,
 - D. Community values,
 - E. Societal and cultural values (*folkways, morays and traditions-based*).

PROCEDURE:

1. Read and consider the following:

What is a value? What do you value? What role(s) do values play in our decision-making?

Values are subjective and personal. You choose them freely, they are a profound part of your self-identity, you will fight to defend your values, and your values are slow and difficult to change; because they are hard-wired into your identify and self-image.

Different people have different values, combinations of values, and indeed varying valuations of their values. What one person values and holds dear, another (you) could care less about it. It simply isn't that important to you, if it is important at all.

Some of the things others value you have a profoundly opposite valuation for it. Someone could value money, while you're a philanthropist. Another may value social acceptance, while you don't care what folks think or say in their opinion of you. You may value service to others, while another person values social status and values being respected. You may

value passion, creativity, optimism, and beautiful works of art; while some red-neck, in a red ball cap thinks you're a liberal nut-job for caring deeply about those things.

Leland Howe in his work on "Values Clarification" posed a test example where the individual had to make difficult, life & death choices, based upon their values. The example/test went something like this.

"One hour ago, Flight 13, miles off course, crashed in an extremely remote, completely unpopulated area. The aircraft's emergency locator transmitter was destroyed. There are 15 survivors and it is highly unlikely that they will be discovered for at least several weeks. There is only enough food and liquids available for nine (9) people for three weeks.

The location is a wasteland: no vegetation, no wild game, no lakes or streams. The survivors are solely dependent on the food stores in the wreckage. You are one of the survivors. You are to determine which nine people should be allowed to eat. The group has agreed to abide by your decision.

There were 16 survivors and all agreed that you were the person in charge of attempting to keep as many survivors alive as possible. There was a 91-year-old woman, a three-year-old child and her mother, a basketball player, a 49-year-old priest with arthritic knees, a medical student and his kleptomaniac wife (inseparable), a prostitute, a scientist, a fashion model, a young lawyer on anti-depressants, a Hollywood starlet, a homosexual, and you."

So based upon your values, who would you choose? What does your choices say about you and your values? What would be the order in which those who survived the crash won't survive your value system?

Might you be someone who values self-sacrifice and as the result choose yourself to be the last who must die so that the others live, because you don't trust anybody else to make these decisions, or you wouldn't want some of these other survivors to have to make such difficult decisions?

Some of your values developed as you were growing up, which helped to form your personal values. These categories of value systems include: family & inner-circle values, community values, societal values, and the corporate values you've acquired when you were old enough to begin employment, vocation, or a career. In the latter group, professional ethics is a factor which influences your adoption of corporate values.

2. Think about your values. What are they. How did you develop them? Who or what influenced you to adopt these values.