

VALUES

by Sarah Chamberlain

Values. What are they and what do they do?

Values are who and what we are. I am afraid that values are much less than they used to be.

What one person values may not mean anything to someone else. Many people value family and friends. I value the friendships I have with others because I have no immediate family that is still living.

Values are also our moral code. I have always tried to follow the moral values set apart in the bible relating to love, honor and obeying the laws of God.

One time I was asked if I was married and I stated that I never had been married. They then asked how many kids I had and I repeated I was never married and they said, "that makes no difference." Well, to me it does, it was not the way I was raised.

Another example of this was when I had cataract surgery. Before my first surgery, I had to go through a comprehensive pre-surgery screen: heart, blood pressure, temperature and of course, the obligatory "little plastic cup."

After I had my post-surgery 10 day checkup, I was scheduled for the next surgery and was told that since it was within 30 days I could take the short exam.

Yeah, I thought. I showed up for the exam thinking, heart, blood pressure and temperature. She set out the little plastic cup and I said, "I'm taking the short exam." The answer was, "This *is* the short exam." I asked, "Why is this necessary?" The answer was, "We have to make sure you are not pregnant." I told her I was 50 years old and never married, never done the deed. "Do you think I've done it in the last 2 weeks?" The answer was, "It's possible."

There is a serious problem with the new morality. Almost no one under the age of 40 is following the biblical tenants relating to marriage and joining with a partner anymore. There is open cheating on spouses too. It is mostly spam but sometimes, I get emails in my inbox for "life is short, have an affair." I won't discuss the pop-up ads showing a young Asian female asking if I like "Asian girls."

There is more stealing too. Ponzi schemes abound, and many of them are perpetrated by the churches in the name of religion. I prepare income taxes and I have had to deal with one such scheme. The "minister" was indicted in this case and convicted, making my clients eligible for the special tax relief put forth by the IRS. This is just one example of the thefts.

I believe that most people are moral, but unfortunately I think it is predominately within our generation which leads me to fear for the future of our country and the world.