

# WHAT WE CARE ABOUT

We're starting a new unit this Sunday focusing on our Reservoir values. Back when we became Reservoir Church we thought a lot about what we want to stand for as a church, and we came up with five things that felt the most important. We called them our Core Values: Connection, Everyone, Action, Freedom, and Humility. Over the next five weeks we'll be talking about what those words mean and why they're important. But today I wanted to step back and think about what it even means to have values.

Sometimes the word "value" means how much something is worth. A valuable antique is worth a lot of money. And when you value something, that means you care about it more than you care about other things. Jesus was talking about that when he told his friends not to think about getting rich: "Don't store up treasure on earth," he told them. "Instead, store up treasure in heaven, because where you keep your treasure is where your heart will be too."

It seems like Jesus really knew what he cared about. Later, when the religious teachers were trying to trick him and get him in trouble, they asked him about God's rules. "Which of the rules do you think is the most important?" they wanted to know. Jesus didn't hesitate before giving his answer.

"Love God, and care about other people like you care about yourself," he told them. "Those are the most important. All the other rules come from those two." Jesus knew about all the 613 rules in the Bible, and he wasn't saying that they didn't matter. Remember, he told his friends that not one dot of an "i" would change in the law until God's kingdom came to earth. But sometimes he did things that other people thought were breaking those rules, like when he healed people on the Sabbath, the day when everyone was supposed to be resting. When he was questioned about it, Jesus went back to his core values of caring about people. "Were people made for the Sabbath?" he asked, "or was the Sabbath made for people?"

Looking at my own life, I can see times when thinking about my values might help me to make a decision. For example, I might say I value going outside and getting my body moving. But if when it's hot I spend all day sitting in front of a fan reading a book it might be that I value staying comfortable even more! Knowing that I can either change my choices or change how I talk about my values. A more important example might be when a friend asks me if I thought their joke was funny. Which do I value more: being honest, or being kind?

I wonder if you've ever thought about your own values? What things are important to you? Is that something you've ever spent time wondering about yourself?