

TEN CHRISTIAN VALUES FOR EVALUATING MEDIA AND CULTURE

1. **Human Dignity**—We believe that all women and men are created by God and uniquely fashioned in God's image. Created in the image and likeness of God, each person is sacred. No one is expendable. The dignity of the human person does not come from things or status or money; it comes from the Creator. A basic responsibility and challenge for all Christians is to encourage attitudes, behaviors and structures that value the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, economic class, sex, age or degree of ability.
2. **Equality**—We believe that all people are equally important members of the Body of Christ, and all deserve equal treatment and a basic attitude of respect. Challenging stereotypes of race or culture, of the elderly or people with disabilities are all ways of realizing equality between people and in society as a whole.
3. **Love and Community**—We believe that we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, that life is meant to be lived in community, in relationships with other people. In community we learn who and whose we are. Relationships are built upon love, compassion, reconciliation, respect for the dignity of people and equality between people.
4. **Interdependence**—We believe all aspects of God's creation are linked together. We are one human family, diverse and unique, but connected. There is a basic interconnectedness of all life, as evidenced in our environmental problems.
5. **Stewardship**—We believe that God has entrusted us with the duty to use the world's resources responsibly. God entrusts all of the resources of creation to us so that the needs of all people may be met. Promoting conservation of the earth's limited

resources, nurturing a sense of reverence for God's creation, encouraging a sense of sharing our personal talents and possessions as well as the earth's resources, and challenging materialism and wastefulness are all ways of realizing stewardship.

6. **Human Rights**—We believe that all human beings are entitled to the minimum conditions necessary for healthy growth. Minimum human rights include sufficient life goods, availability of education and work, cultural acceptance, economic justice and the right to political participation.
7. **Justice**—We believe that the essential human needs of all people must be met and that Christians are called to address the social problems and social policies that keep people poor and oppressed. As Christians, we believe in active concern for the poor and oppressed, whose needs deserve special attention.
8. **Peace**—We believe that people are called to live in peace with one another and with creation, to realize greater cooperation among peoples. As Christians, we are called to resolve conflicts between people and nations with non-violent means.
9. **Compassion and Service**—We believe that, as followers of Jesus, we are called to love and serve others and to have a special sensitivity to human suffering and fragility. We believe that to have compassion for those whom society considers outcasts or worthless is to love as Jesus loved. We believe that we are called to serve others in need and to work for a world freed from poverty and oppression of all kinds.
10. **Relationships and Sexuality**—We believe that the quality of our relationships depends on commitment, faithfulness, honesty and a true concern for the other person. We believe that sexuality is a gift from God, an integral part of our personhood.