

Food for Thought | October 2021

Over the last year and a half, we have all become familiar with different ways of keeping in touch, running meetings, attending conferences, or going to church. We have adapted as much as possible to remain connected. However, the truth is, we have spent months and months living in a world that has felt very much disconnected. October 21st was World Values Day and this year the theme was reconnecting. The question was asked, how can our values help us reconnect?

Understanding our values is a great place to start. Our values define us and guide our actions. When we are intentional about what matters to us, we will experience greater alignment in our lives. When you value creativity but rarely have opportunity to use those skills you may feel blocked or stumped. When you value trust and are experiencing a toxic work culture it will be difficult to bring yourself to work each day. What we value matters and should be reflected in the way we live and lead.

So how can we leverage what motivates us to help us reconnect in the present with God, family, friends, our teams, and our community?

How living by your personal values helps you become more intentional in life decisions

Our values whether identified or not motivate our actions. Taking time to discern what matters most to you provides an intentional compass for all situations. "Intentional living is about living a life that is true to you."

Christ's prayers can transform ours

Reconnecting these days seems to be focused on in-person gathering. So, what does it look like to reconnect with God? What values draw you nearer to him? Jesus' example teaches us that through prayer we can be transformed for God's purposes.

What we can rely on

When the world was hit with the pandemic it didn't take long to see values in action. Still, it was not hard for cynicism to seep in and cause distrust. It is crucial that we break down these barriers of negativity and put values of compassion and love into action.

When trust is broken: Reconnecting to purpose in a post-covid world

Organizations have experienced immense disruption since 2020 and in some ways, it has caused damage. Yet in many other ways it has led to much needed transformation. "Leaders must find a way to blend long-held values with a renewed sense of purpose."

Four steps to reconnect with employees

Now over a year since the start of the pandemic we are seeing employees again in-person. However, that does not mean business as usual. Reconnecting with employees requires understanding how they have changed, from their personal lives to their values and beliefs. It is critical that we take time to reconnect.

From our shelves ...

In his book *From Values to Action*, Kraemer argues the need for values-based leadership in today's business world. Following four principles this book will help you reflect on what matters most and how to deliver a standard of authenticity in the way you lead.

From Values to Action

Harry M. Kraemer Jr.
Jossey-Bass (2011)

