

Core Beliefs and Values Intertwined (Uniting Principles)

Core beliefs and values to follow are prayerfully centered on what is first and foremost righteous. Christians, those of other faiths and atheists to agnostics share different beliefs yet often share very similar values. When I speak of values, I am referring to the ethics and morals that are taught to us predominantly by our parents but also by others, including grandparents, family, friends, and other special people in our life. My mother was the major influence in my childhood. Therefore, much or most of what are my core values was at her core, including loving, communicating openly and giving.

My mother regularly took me to church until I was six years old before we moved to Mendham. Thereafter, we went no more than a handful of times together for the rest of our lives. Mom lived a life that had many ups and downs, some that would be deemed the opposite of Godly. Nonetheless, while she didn't always live a life based on what was right and righteous, she taught me values based on what was right and righteous.

Other than being loving, primary values instilled in me by my mother included being respectful, particularly to those that earn respect, kindness, compassion and more. Plus, I believe in *Seven Positive Principles* mainly because of my mother, and I surely know that *A Promise Is a Promise* because of her. She taught me that we must be honorable in our commitments and communicate openly.

However, my mother did not teach me or show me much on forgiveness, humbleness, and patience. Hence, that has taken more work and effort to evolve in who I became, let alone who I hope to be. As referenced in *Stories of Forgiveness*, I did not truly learn how to forgive for many decades. Through evolution in my faith and beliefs, I've learned the value proposition in forgiveness is centered in both psychology and the Lord.

Loving All Brothers and Sisters is a core value to me as well as something my mother installed, with *Martin Luther King Jr. an Early Influence* an example. Core values are mostly taught and learned rather than ingrained in our DNA or in our God given make up. We can and should grow, evolve, and improve in acting on these core values that are almost always shared by Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims and followers of other religions. See *Compassion and Kindness – A Common Thread for Humanity*.

Collectively, when most of us remember and act on valued and beliefs taught by our parents and/or our religions, then kindness, compassion, mercy, grace, and love will be the uniting principles that heal a broken world.

July 21, 2019, March 8, 2020, and March 14, 2021