

# VALUES, BEST QUOTES ON

The sun, though it passes through dirty places, yet remains as pure as before.

--Francis Bacon

It is the greatest good to the greatest number which is the measure of right and wrong.

--Jeremy Bentham

The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in time of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.

--Dante Alighieri

Know your worth so you know when to say, 'Yes', and when to say, 'Thank you but no thank you.'

—Sam Owen

To do as you would be done by, is the plain, sure, and undisputed rules of morality and justice.

—Lord Chesterfield

Perhaps the worst sin in life is knowing right and not doing it.

--Martin Luther King. Jr.

To be good is noble, but to teach others how to be good is nobler—and less trouble.

--Mark Twain

To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.

--Theodore Roosevelt

Moral courage is a more rare commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence.

--Robert F. Kennedy

If you don't want anyone to know it, don't do it.

--Chinese Proverb

The only things worth our knowing are those that teach us to live good lives.

--Jean Jacques Rousseau

Most youth still hold the same values of their parents...if we do not alter this pattern, if we don't resocialize, our system will decay.

—John Goodlad

Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.

--Margaret Chase Smith

Morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless.

--Martin Luther  
King, Jr.

The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all your money.

—Benjamin Jowett

Television is much more than mere entertainment: it is also a major source of observational learning experiences, a setter of norms. It determined what people judge to be appropriate behavior in a variety of situations. Indeed it might be that television has become one of the most important agencies of socialization that our society possesses.

—J. Philippe Rushton

Educate the heart. Let us have good men.

—Hiram Powers

Teaching children to count is not as important as teaching them what counts.

—Arlene Greco

Would the boy you were be proud of the man you are?

--Laurence J. Peter

To see and listen to the wicked is already the beginning of wickedness.

--Confucius

In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock

--Thomas Jefferson

Absolute morality is the regulation of conduct in such a way that pain shall not be inflicted.

--Herbert Spencer

So far as I have observed in this life, ten men have failed from defect in morals where one has failed from defect in intellect.

--Horace Mann

Ethics, too, are nothing but reverence for life. That is what gives me the fundamental principles of morality, namely, that good consists in maintaining, promoting, and enhancing life, and that destroying, injuring, and limiting life are evil.

--Albert Schweitzer

A sense of values is the most important single element in human personality.

--Unknown

The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his *intellectual* superiority to the other creatures; but the fact that he can *do* wrong proves his *moral* inferiority to any creatures that *cannot*.

--Mark Twain

It is notorious that a single successful effort of moral volition, such as saying 'no' to some habitual temptation, or performing some courageous act, will launch a man on a higher level of energy for days and weeks, will give him a new range of power.

--William James

Morals are caught, not taught.

--Unknown

Today we are afraid of simple words like goodness and mercy and kindness. We don't believe in the good old words because we don't believe in the good old values anymore. And that's why the world is sick.

--Lin Yutang

We talk about the American Dream, and want to tell the world about the American Dream, but what is that Dream, in most cases, but the dream of material things? I sometimes think that the United States for this reason is the greatest failure the world has ever seen.

--Eugene O'Neill

It is more important to do the right thing than to do things right.

--Peter Drucker

Every man is worth just as much as the things are worth about which he busies himself.

--Marcus Aurelius

We live in a war of two antagonistic ethical philosophies, the ethical policy taught in the books and schools, and the success policy.

--William Graham  
Sumner

The great danger in public education today is that we have failed to see the difference between knowledge and wisdom. We train the head and let the heart run hog-wild. We allow culture and character to walk miles apart, stuffing the head with mathematics and languages—leaving manners and morals out of the picture.

--Theodore H. Palmquists

In every way in which we live,  
Our values are comparative.  
Observe the snail who with a sigh,  
Says: 'See those turtles whizzing by.'

--Unknown

What is moral is what you feel good after.

--Ernest Hemingway

Morality is the custom of one's country and the current feeling of one's peers.  
Cannibalism is moral in a cannibal country.

--Samuel Butler

What is morality in any given time or place? It is what the majority then and there happen to like, and immorality is what they dislike.

--Alfred North Whitehead

The significance of a man is not in what he attains but rather in what he longs to attain.

--Kahlil Gibran

No morality can be founded on authority, even if the authority were divine.

--A. J. Ayer

Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value.

--Albert Einstein

Be not too hasty to trust or admire the teachers of morality; they discourse like angels, but they live like men.

--Samuel Johnson

If your morality is joyless, try immorality, and have yourself some fun before they shove dirt in your face.

--Brendan Francis

Never teach false morality. How exquisitely absurd to teach a girl that beauty is of no value, dress of no use! Beauty is of value—her whole prospects and happiness in life may often depend upon a new gown or a becoming bonnet; if she has five grains of common sense, she will find this out. The great thing is to teach her their just value, and that there must be something better under the bonnet than a pretty face, for real happiness. But never sacrifice truth.

--Sydney Smith

The poverty of goods is easily cured; the poverty of the soul is irreparable.

--Montaigne

Morality's not practical. Morality's a gesture. A complicated gesture learned from books.

--Robert Bolt

The only absolute morality is absolute stagnation.

--Samuel Butler

Morality is the custom of one's country and the current feeling of one's peers.

--Samuel Butler

Our system of morality is a body of imperfect social generalizations expressed in terms of emotion.

--Oliver Wendell  
Holmes, Jr.

Morality is largely a matter of geography.

--Elbert Hubbard

Morality is the thing upon which your friends smile, and immorality is the thing on which they frown.

--Elbert Hubbard

Morals are an acquirement—like music, like a foreign language, like piety, poker, paralysis—no man is born with them.

--Mark Twain

A man who moralizes is usually a hypocrite, and a woman who moralizes is invariably plain.

--Oscar Wilde

Morality regulates the acts of man as a private individual; honor, his acts as a public man.

--Esteban Echeverria

Knowledge has outstripped character development, and the young today are given an education rather than an upbringing.

--Ilya Ehrenburg

Weeds are as much a part of life as cultivated plants; they are misplaced only according to human conceptions.

--Unknown

If your morals make you dreary, depend upon it, they are wrong. I do not say give them up, for they may be all you have, but conceal them like a vice lest they should spoil the lives of better and simpler people.

--Robert Louis Steven

Virtue consists, not in abstaining from vice, but in not desiring it.

--George Bernard Shaw

What we call 'morals' is simply blind obedience to words of command.

--Havelock Ellis

You can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements.

--Norman Douglas

The value of all things, even our lives, depends on the use we make of them.

--Unknown

It is what we value, not what we have, that makes us rich.

--Unknown

Virtue is harder to be got than knowledge of the world; and, if lost in a young man, is seldom recovered.

--John Locke

Conscience is the inner voice that warns us somebody may be looking.

--Henry Louis Mencken

He who wears his morality but as his best garment were better naked.

--Kahlil Gibran

To be a moral man is to obey the traditional maxims of your community without hesitation or discussion. Hence, ethics, which is reasoning out an explanation of morality, is—I will not say immoral, that would be going too far—composed of the very substance of immorality.

--Charles S. Pierce

Learn what a people glory in, and you may learn much of both the theory and practice of their morals.

--J. Martineau

To be in good moral condition requires at least as much training as to be in good physical condition.

--Jawaharlal Nehru

As I know more of mankind I expect less of them, and am ready now to call a man a good man upon easier terms than I was formerly.

--Samuel Johnson

Each of us has his own little private conviction of rightness and almost by definition, the Utopian condition of which we all dream is that in which all people finally see the error of their ways and agree with us.

--S. I. Hayakawa

It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them.

--Alfred Adler

Could it be brought home to people that there is no absolute standard in morality, they would perhaps be somewhat more tolerant in their judgments, and more apt to listen to the voice of reason.

--Edward Westermarck

I never came across anyone in whom the moral sense was dominant who was not heartless, cruel, vindictive, log-stupid and entirely lacking in the smallest sense of humanity.

--Oscar Wilde

Moral certainty is always a sign of cultural inferiority. The more uncivilized the man, the surer he is that he knows precisely what is right and what is wrong. All human progress, even in morals, has been the work of men who have doubted the current moral values, not of men who have whooped them up and tried to enforce them.

--H. L. Mencken

Absolutism in morals is a guarantee of objectionable morals in the same way as absolutism in government is a guarantee of objectionable government.

--Robert Briffault

The consistent thinker, the consistently moral man, is either a walking mummy or else, if he has not succeeded in stifling all his vitality, a fanatical monomaniac.

--Aldous Huxley

Law is the witness and external deposit of our moral life. Its history is the history of the moral development of the race.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Virtue is insufficient temptation.

--George Bernard Shaw

Our mission is to teach students not only how to walk, but also where to walk.

--Unknown

Universities are turning out highly skilled barbarians because we don't provide a frame of values to young people who more and more are searching for it.

--Steven Muller

Nowadays it seems that moral education is no longer considered necessary. Attention is wholly centered on intelligence, while the heart of life is ignored.

--George Sand

Veracity is the heart of morality.

--Thomas Henry Huxley

Modern morality consists in accepting the standard of one's age.  
--Oscar Wilde

Ethical living is the indispensable condition of all that is most worthwhile in the world.  
--Ernest Caldecott

Nothing is good or bad but by comparison  
--Thomas Fuller

Ethics is not a luxury. It's as essential to our survival as clean water and sunlight.  
--Rushworth M. Kidder

You need not choose evil; but have only to fail to choose good, and you drift fast enough toward evil.  
--W. J. Dawson

Aim above morality. Be not simply good; be good for something.  
--Henry David Thoreau

Much of life is a moral and spiritual journey, and it makes no sense to send young people forth on such a journey having offered them only some timid, vacillating opinions about proper conduct. We must give our children better equipment than that. We must offer them unequivocal, reliable standards of right and wrong, noble and base, just and unjust. We must treat life as a moral endeavor.  
--William J. Bennett

He without benefit of scruples  
His fun and money soon quadruples.  
--Ogden Nash

Moral indignation is jealousy with a halo.  
--H. G. Wells

When virtue has slept, she will get up more refreshed.  
--Friedrich Nietzsche

Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder.  
--George Washington

Purity is obscurity.

--Ogden Nash

One big vice in a man is apt to keep out a great many smaller ones.

--Bret Harte

Vice is as much a part of human nature as folly, and pornography may be as necessary to vent vice as satire is to vent folly.

--Mavor Moore

Ill habits gather by unseen degrees,  
As brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas.

--John Dryden

All men are tempted. There is no man that lives that can't be broken down, provided it is the right temptation, put in the right spot.

--Henry Ward Beecher

After listening to thousands of pleas for pardon to offenders, I can hardly recall a case where I did not feel that I might have fallen as my fellow man had done, if I had been subjected to the same demoralizing influences and pressed by the same temptations.

—Governor Horatio  
Seymour

The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it. Resist it, and your soul grows sick with longing for the things it has forbidden to itself.

--Oscar Wilde

Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense.

--Winston Churchill

It is customary these days to ignore what should be done in favour of what pleases us.

--Plautus

It is a public scandal that gives offence and it is no sin to sin in secret.

--Molière

Morality is the theory that every human act must be either right or wrong and that 99% of them are wrong.

--H. L. Mencken

### **SUMMING UP THE CASE FOR VALUES EDUCATION:**

1. There is a clear and urgent need.
2. Transmitting values is and always has been the work of civilization.
3. The school's role as moral educator becomes even more vital at a time when millions of children get little moral teaching from their parents and where value-centered influences such as church or temple are also absent from their lives.
4. There is common ethical ground even in our value-conflicted society.
5. Democracies have a special need for moral education, because democracy is government by the people themselves.
6. There is no such thing as value-free education.
7. The great questions facing both the individual person and the human race are moral questions.
8. There is broad-based, growing support for values education in the schools.
9. An unabashed commitment to moral education is essential if we are to attract and keep good teachers.

--Thomas Lickona

The child learns more of the virtues needed in modern life—of fairness, of justice, of comradeship, of collective interest and action—in a common school than can be taught in the most perfect family circle.

--Charlotte Perkins  
Gilman

If any man will sum us up according to our actions and behavior, he will find many more excellent men among the educated; I mean as regards to virtue.

--Michel Eyquem  
De Montaigne

The want of education and moral training is the only real barrier that exists between classes of men.

--Sysanna Moodie

Morality, like language, is an invented structure for conserving and communicating order. And morality is learned, like language, by mimicking and remembering.

--Jane Rule

Growing up female in America. What a liability! You grew up with your ears full of cosmetic ads, love songs, advice columns, whorescopes, Hollywood gossip, and moral dilemmas on the level of TV soap operas. What litanies the advertisers of the good life chanted at you! What curious catechisms!

--Erica Jong

It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues.

--Abraham Lincoln

He who cannot resist temptation is not a man.

--Horace Mann

There are several good protections against temptation, but the surest is cowardice.

--Mark Twain

I can resist anything except temptation.

--Oscar Wilde

As the Sandwich-Islander believes that the strength and valor of the enemy he kills passes into himself, so we gain the strength of the temptations we resist.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

What is a man born for but to be a reformer, a remaker of what has been made, a denouncer of lies, a restorer of truth and good?

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The good man is the man who, no matter how morally unworthy he has been, is moving to become better.

--John Dewey

Morality is the best of all devices for leading mankind by the nose.

--Nietzsche

Morality is simply the attitude we adopt toward people whom we personally dislike.

--Oscar Wilde

So far, about morals, I know only that what is moral is what you feel good after and what is immoral is what you feel bad after.

--Ernest Hemingway

Morality, said Jesus, is kindness to the weak; morality, said Nietzsche, is the bravery of the strong; morality, said Plato, is the effective harmony of the whole. Probably all three doctrines must be combined to find a perfect ethic; but can we doubt which of the elements is fundamental?

--Will Durant

Immorality: the morality of those who are having a better time.

--H. L. Mencken

Morality knows nothing of geographical boundaries or distinctions of race.

--Herbert Spencer

The superior man...does not set his mind either for or against anything; he will pursue whatever is right....The superior man thinks of virtue, the common man of comfort.

--Confucius

In the twentieth century what astonished many of us is not so much that human nature is fundamentally corrupt; we are astonished rather that it does not behave more wickedly than it obviously does.

--Morton Irving Seiden

Moral principle is a looser bond than pecuniary interest.

--Abraham Lincoln

Go into the street, and give one man a lecture on morality, and another a shilling, and see which will respect you most.

--Dr. Samuel Johnson

The basic test of freedom is perhaps less in what we are free to do than in what we are free not to do.

--Eric Hoffer

Moral luminaries are those who forgo ordinary pleasures and find compensation in interfering with the pleasures of others.

--Bertrand Russell

A moralist never seems to run out of ideas on what other people ought to do.

—Evan Esar

Guilt is a guardian of our goodness.

--Dr. Willard Gaylin

Guilt is what civilizes.

--Phillip Lopate

The Ten Commandments must be silent when self-preservation is at stake.

--Will and Ariel Durant

How has it happened, what have we come to, that the scarlet letter these days isn't A but V.

--Joyce Maynard

History offers some consolation by reminding us that sin has flourished in every age. Man has never reconciled himself to the Ten Commandments.

--Will and Ariel Durant

Ideals are like the stars...like the mariners of the sea, we chart our course by them.

--Carl Schurz

The best and deepest moral training is that which one gets by having to enter into proper relations with others....Present educational systems, so far as they destroy or neglect this unity, render it difficult or impossible to get any genuine, regular moral training.

--John Dewey

Morality, like art, means drawing a line someplace.

--Oscar Wilde

Surely there comes a time when counting the cost and paying the price aren't things to think about any more. All that matters is value—the ultimate value of what one does.

--James Hilton

Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it.

--David Starr Jordan

There is no such thing as absolute value in this world. You can only estimate what a thing is worth to you.

--Ley Warner

For the young are not able to distinguish what is and what is not allegory, but whatever opinions are taken into the mind at that age are wont to prove indelible and unalterable. For which reason, maybe, we should do our utmost that the first stories that they hear should be so composed as to bring the fairest lessons of virtue to their ears.

--Plato

If we want to educate a person in virtue we must polish him at a tender age. And if someone is to advance toward wisdom he must be opened up for it in the first years of his life when his industriousness is still burning, his mind is malleable, and his memory still strong.

--Comenius

Learning does not take place in isolation. Students bring to the learning setting what they have experienced and the values they have been taught at home and in their neighborhoods. This affects how they respond.

--*National Center for  
Education  
Statistics*

Everyone values things differently. In other words, they place their own value on everything that affects their lives. Also from moment to moment they may even change their values. Such as a person, who values diamonds above all else, might be willing to trade a gallon of diamonds for a drink of water to save his life in a desert. What this means is value is a relative thing depending on a need or a perceived need. Yet, how many people will argue and even violently fight over the perceived value of something or some idea only later have an entirely different view point or value.

--Sidney Madwed

Just as physical life cannot exist without the support of the physical environment, so moral life cannot go on without the support of a moral environment.

--John Dewey

Our American values are not luxuries but necessities, not the salt in our bread, but the bread itself. Our common vision of a free and just society is our greatest source of cohesion at home and strength abroad, greater than the bounty of our material blessings.

--Jimmy Carter

Do not be too moral. You may cheat yourself out of much life so.

—Henry David Thoreau

The moment you give up your principles, and your values, you are dead, your culture is dead, your civilization is dead. Period.

—Oriana Fallaci

It is easier to exemplify values than teach them.

—Theodore Hesburgh

The aim of education is the knowledge not of fact, but of values.

—Dean William Ralph  
Inge

It is necessary to make virtue fashionable.

—Jose Marti

Virtue is not the absense of vices or the avoidance of moral dangers. Virtue is a vivid and separate thing, like pain or a particular smell.

—G. K. Chesterton

There's nothing either good or bad,  
But thinking makes it so.

—William Shakespeare

Inability to tell good from evil is the greatest worry of man's life.

—Cicero

The foundations of morality are like all other foundations: if you dig too much about them the superstructure will come tumbling down.

—Samuel Butler

Morals are a personal affair; in the war of righteousness every man fights for his own hand.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Goodness does not more certainly make men happy than happiness makes them good.

—W. S. Landor

Do not do unto others as you would they should do unto you. Their tastes may not be the same.

—George Bernard Shaw

Actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness, wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness. By happiness is intended pleasure and the absence of pain, by unhappiness, pain and the privation of pleasure.

—John Stuart Mill

Values are rooted in a basic optimism about life and a faith in free will.

—Barack Obama

Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.

—C. S. Lewis

Compassion is the basis of morality.

—Arnold Schopenhauer

The best way to teach morality is to make it a habit with children.

—Aristotle

Values are like fingerprints. Nobody's are the same, but you leave 'em all over everything you do.

—Elvis Presley

What are these kids really vomiting up every weekend at their fancy colleges? Is it really just 12 shots of apple-flavored vodka? Or is it a set of values, an attitude toward the self and toward others, that has become increasingly hard for them to stomach?

—Caitlin Flanagan

Words and the meanings of words are not matters merely for the academic amusement of linguists and logisticians, or for the aesthetic delight of poets; they are matters of the profoundest ethical significance to every human being.

--Aldous Huxley

The only good advice is a good example. You don't tell them a whole lot of anything. You show them by doing. You teach values by making choices in their presence. They see what you do and they make judgments on it.

--Ossie Davis

Customs form us all, our thoughts, our morals, our most fixed beliefs; are consequences of our place of birth.

—Aaron Hill

I've got two daughters. 9 years old and 6 years old. I am going to teach them first of all about values and morals. But if they make a mistake, I don't want them punished with a baby.

—Barack Obama

One day in my pharmacology class, we were discussing the possibility of legalizing marijuana. The class was pretty evenly divided between those that advocated legalizing marijuana and those that did not. The professor said he wanted to hear from a few people on both sides of the argument. A couple students had the opportunity to stand in front of the class and present their arguments. One student got up and spoke about how any kind of marijuana use was morally wrong and how nobody in the class could give him any example of someone who needed marijuana.

A small girl in the back of the classroom raised her hand and said that she didn't want to get up, but just wanted to comment that there are SOME situations in which people might need marijuana. The same boy from before spoke up and said that she needed to back up her statements and that he still stood by the fact that there wasn't anyone who truly needed marijuana.

The same girl in the back of the classroom slowly stood up. As she raised her head to look at the boy, I could physically see her calling on every drop of confidence in her body. She told us that her husband had cancer. She started to tear up, as she related how he couldn't take any of the painkillers to deal with the radiation and chemotherapy treatments. His body was allergic and would have violent reactions to them. She told us how he had finally given in and tried marijuana. Not only did it help him to feel better, but it allowed him to have enough of an appetite to get the nutrients he so desperately needed.

She started to sob as she told us that for the past month she had to meet with drug dealers to buy her husband the only medicine that would take the pain away. She struggled every day because according to society, she was a criminal, but she was willing to do anything she could to help her sick husband. Sobbing uncontrollably now, she ran out of the classroom. The whole classroom sat there in silence for a few minutes. Eventually, my professor asked, 'Is there anyone that thinks this girl is doing something wrong?' Not one person raised their hand.

—Daniel Willey

Values are shaped and refined by rubbing against real problems, and people interpret their problems according to the values they hold.

—Ronald A. Heifetz

A liberal-arts education is supposed to provide you with a value system, a standard, a set of ideas, not a job.

--Caroline Bird

I am reminded of a story about ethics. A boy asked his father, 'Dad, what is this ethics I hear so much about?' The father thought awhile and then replied, 'Son, ethics is hard to define, but I will illustrate it with an example. You know that my partner Sam and I own this store in equal shares, 50/50. This morning one of our good customers, Mr. Jenkins, came in and made a payment on his account. In checking the cash drawer after he had gone, I find that he had paid \$20 too much, more than he thought he had, because two brand-new \$20 bills stuck together and he counted them as only one. You see, son, that creates a problem in ethics.'

'I don't understand, Dad. What is the problem?' asked the son.

'The ethical problem, son, is do I tell my partner, and give him ten bucks, or do I keep my mouth shut and keep all of the \$20 for myself?'

—Dr. Arnold O. Beckman

Traditionally, ethics has investigated the problems of values and human conduct. Ethics investigates questions involving right conduct, good character, and life fulfillment. It examines the meanings of value terms in order to clarify our moral discourse and to justify ethical judgments. Social and political philosophy concerns questions about social structures and political systems. Social and political philosophy examines values as you relate to the state and the roots of social obligations.

—Manuel Velasquez and  
Vincent Berry

In an ideal world, kids can and should get their morals and value from their parents. But the world in which we live is not ideal. I teach students who are homeless, and their parents are mainly concerned with figuring out the next meal. I teach students who have broken homes, and do not have a consistent family structure in which to thrive. I teach students whose parents don't know the language and don't understand our culture to have a voice and to let them know that they belong in our society. I teach students to be better humans, to care for each other, to question authority, to question themselves. I teach students empathy and compassion. I teach students.

I teach students that when someone attacks them or hurts them to stand strong in the face of adversity. To build a community of friends who support them in difficult times and celebrate with them in successful times. I teach students in and out of the classroom. This is my job, a profession I take very seriously.

—Adam Miller

How unfortunate for us personally, professionally, and socially that all high school and college students are not required to study ethics.

—Grant Wiggins

Wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.

—Confucius

Since belief determines behavior, doesn't it make sense that we should be teaching ethical, moral values in every home and in every school in America?

—Zig Ziglar

The media, sometimes intentionally, but often unintentionally, have the function of providing models for behavior. In some instances, propaganda is used in a deliberate attempt to influence values and beliefs. In other instances, the content of the ads and entertainment functions to convey particular norms of society.

--John W. Kinch

The growing influence of the mass media—particularly television and popular music—raises troubling moral questions. Through simplistic coverage of issues, many television programs project a 'quick fix' mentality that discourages thoughtfulness and encourages violence and questionable social mores. Television programs and commercials encourage such values as materialism, overconsumption, superficiality, and casual sexual behavior, and reinforce racial, ethnic, and sex-role stereotypes. How can school encourage more responsible attention to the values content of the mass media or, failing that, counteract this influence?

--*Moral Education in the  
Life of the School*

Unless and until there is unmistakable proof to the contrary, the presumption must be that television is and will be a main factor in influencing the values and moral standards of our society....Television does not, and cannot, merely reflect the moral standards of society. It must affect them, either by changing or by reinforcing them.

--*Pilkington Report,  
Great Britain,  
(1960)*

The dirty little secret of the media industry is that content aggregators, not content creators, have long been the overwhelming source of value creation.

--Jonathan A. Knee

It's just hard not to listen to TV: it's spent so much more time raising us than parents have.

—Matt Groening

If history is no more than an account of human actions in purely physical terms there is absolutely nothing to be learned from it. Try to make children appreciate these actions in terms of moral relations.

--Jean Jacques Rousseau

The translation of values into public policy is what politics is about.

--Willard Gaylin

If men were angels, no government would be necessary.

--James Madison

All the gold which is under or upon the earth is not enough to give in exchange for virtue.

—Plato

What we still need to do is to infiltrate the mainstream with feminine values. Allow women to think and behave like women. There is no point in having women Cabinet ministers or managing directors or editors if they think and behave exactly like men. Their whole value lies in their difference.

--Lesley Garner

Sports can play a big role in teaching values and principles. It can be a huge development tool for life. Just think: Teamwork, leadership, work ethic and trust are all part of the game and are also all factors in how we make the most of our lives.

—Cal Ripken, Jr.

There is no greater impact made on our present society than the images seen, the sounds heard, and the drama brought daily by the media.

--Harry Belafonte

At times it seems that the media have become the mainstream culture in children's lives. Parents have become the alternative. Americans once expected parents to raise their children in accordance with the dominant cultural messages. Today they are expected to raise their children in opposition to it.

--Ellen Goodman

Priorities are reflected in the things we spend money on. Far from being a dry accounting of bookkeepers, a nation's budget is full of moral implications; it tells what a society cares about and what it does not care about; it tells what its values are.

--Senator J. W. Fulbright

What maintains one vice would bring up two children.

--Benjamin Franklin

I know of nothing more despicable and pathetic than a man who devotes all the hours of the waking day to the making of money for money's sake.

--John D. Rockefeller

Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget. I will tell you what you value.

--Joe Biden

We can tell our values by looking at our checkbook stubs.

--Gloria Steinem

Give me five minutes with a person's checkbook, and I will tell you where their heart is.

--Billy Graham

Philosophy—the thoughts of men about human thinking, reasoning and imagining, and the real values in human existence.

--Charles W. Eliot

Traditionally, ethics has investigated the problem of values in human conduct. Ethics investigates questions involving right conduct, good character, and life fulfillment. It examines the meanings of value terms in order to clarify our moral discourse and to justify ethical judgments. Social and political philosophy concerns questions about social structures and political systems. Social and political philosophy examines values as they relate to the state and the roots of social obligations.

—Manuel Velasquez and  
Vincent Berry

Cultural values are, in themselves, neutral as well as universal, and so much depends on how individuals or ethnic groups use them. Values are influenced by so many factors such as geography, climate, religion, the economy and technology.

—F. Sionil Jose

To create another generation of teens who see condoms in place of convictions means an America with no sexual morality.

--James McCormick

Nothing makes it easier to resist temptation than a proper bringing-up, a sound set of values - and witnesses.

--Franklin P. Jones

There's a voice inside you that tells you what you should do.

--Alan Rickman

Philosophically speaking, values are the termini of our intentions. We never fully achieve them.

—Gordon W. Allport

You don't need religion to have morals. If you can't determine right from wrong then you lack empathy, not religion.

—Kane Bailey

Go to a parent meeting on some topic like 'Teens and Drinking' and you're likely to get an earful about how to keep your teen drinker safe. Teach her to recognize signs of alcohol poisoning in her friends; tell her it's always okay to call 911; advise her to check in on conked-out partygoers every 15 minutes or so to make sure they're just sleeping it off and not unconscious. The message doesn't involve any moral or emotional imperatives; it has to do only with not ending up dead or in jail.

—Caitlin Flanagan

I believe that teaching children honesty and the value of knowledge is fundamentally important to the existence of our free society and in the long run, to the happiness and quality of life of the students as they grow into adults. I admire and applaud parents who do the difficult and thankless work of teaching these values to their children. And I mourn those who teach children it is OK to cheat.

--Steve Simpson

When students cheat on exams it's because our school system values grades more than students value learning.

—Neil deGrasse Tyson

When there is a lack of honor in government, the morals of the whole people are poisoned.

--Herbert Hoover

The law requires a paper towel ad to be scrupulously honest, but allows political candidates to lie without reproach. What's wrong with this picture?

--Jef I. Richards

Honesty is a value that should be taken seriously, applied fairly, and should be a value that you use regularly — a sort of litmus test for helping you make decisions. Will honesty hurt sometimes? You betcha! This is why you've got to exercise your ability to assess the situation you're in and make the best decision you can based on what's happening around you.

If you know that an honest answer will hurt someone, unless you're in a serious illegal, immoral, or unethical situation that requires nothing less than the blunt truth, decide if and how you can soften your approach to spare someone being hurt.

—Karen Ann Kennedy

We can be sure that the greatest hope for maintaining equilibrium in the face of any situation rests within ourselves. Persons who are secure with a transcendental system of values and a deep sense of moral duties are possessors of values which no man and no catastrophe can take from them.

—Francis J. Braceland

Out of fear, out of the desire for approval, out of misguided notions of duty, people surrender themselves--their convictions and their aspirations--every day. There is nothing noble about it. It takes far more courage to fight for your values than to relinquish them.

—Nathaniel Branden

There is no greater sign of a general decay of virtue in a nation, than a want of zeal in its inhabitants for the good of their country.

--Joseph Addison

What do I owe to my times, to my country, to my neighbors, to my friends? Such are the questions which a virtuous man ought often to ask himself.

—Lavater

Parents who discipline their child by discussing the consequences of their actions produce children who have better moral development, compared to children whose parents use authoritarian methods and punishment.

—Simon Baron-Cohen

One goes through school...learning little or nothing about goodness but a good deal about success.

--Ashley Montagu

Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.

--Aristotle

Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what's right.

--Isaac Asimov

The moment you give up your principles, and your values, you are dead, your culture is dead, your civilization is dead. Period.

—Oriana Fallaci

There shall be no differences, save by merit of character, by merit of ability, by merit of service to country. Those are the true tests of value of any man or woman.

--Annie Wood Besant

It is not book learning young men need, nor instruction about this and that, but a stiffening of the vertebrae which will cause them to be loyal to a trust, to act promptly, concentrate their energies, do a thing—‘carry a message to Garcia.’

--Elbert Hubbard

Courage may be the most important of all virtues, because without it one cannot practice any other virtue with consistency.

--Maya Angelou

The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been Kindness, Beauty, and Truth...The trite subjects of human efforts—possessions, outward success, luxury—have always seemed to me contemptible.

--Albert Einstein

True courage is not the brutal force of vulgar heroes, but the firm resolve of virtue and reason.

--Alfred North Whitehead

Civilization ceases when we no longer respect and no longer put into their correct places the fundamental values, such as work, family and country; such as the individual, honor and religion.

--R. P. Lebet

A speck cuts the value of a diamond in half. A race horse that can run a mile a few seconds faster than any other is worth twice as much. That little extra all through life proves to be of the greatest value.

—John D. Hess

The dollar is the American unit of measurement for somebody's value as a person.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Each person is a natural egoist who sees the world as if it were a novel in which he or she were the hero or heroine, but morality begins when a person can see the world as if he or she were a minor character in someone else's novel.

--Gary Saul Morson

Attractive souls are different than beautiful souls. Attractive souls take care of their outward appearance for appearance sake. Beautiful souls care for themselves inwardly and outwardly, so they can be of value to themselves and to others.

—Toni Sorenson

Of all virtues and dignities of the mind, goodness is the greatest, being the character of the Deity; and without it, man is a busy, mischievous, wretched thing.

—Francis Bacon

Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness—not pain or mindless self-indulgence—is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values.

--Ayn Rand

Never teach false morality. How exquisitely absurd to teach a girl that beauty is of no value, dress of no use! Beauty is of value—her whole prospects and happiness in life may often depend upon a new gown or a becoming bonnet; if she has five grains of common sense, she will find this out. The great thing is to teach her their just value, and that there must be something better under the bonnet than a pretty face, for real happiness. But never sacrifice truth.

--Sydney Smith

The most powerful lessons about ethics and morality do not come from school discussions or classes in character building. They come from family life where people treat one another with respect, consideration, and love.

--Neil Kurshan

Way down deep we feel it. The power of mother love. For centuries, it is been the glue that cemented the two things Black folks have traditionally valued above all others: our families and our faith.

--Laura B. Randolph

Hatred is a feeling which leads to the extinction of values.

—Jose Ortega y Gasset

A man without ethics is a wild beast loosed upon this world.

—Albert Camus

We have a moral responsibility to protect the earth and ensure that our children and grandchildren have a healthy and sustainable environment in which to live.

—Jim Clyburn

We will not make inroads into the gun-violence problem until we acknowledge the underlying causes of youth behavior today, compared to yesterday. We must come to the realization that laws and regulations alone cannot produce a civilized society. It's morality that is society's first line of defense against uncivilized behavior.

--Walter E. Williams

If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values—that all reality hinges on moral foundations.

—Martin Luther  
King, Jr.

Deterrence itself is not a preeminent value; the primary values are safety and morality.

—Herman Kahn

The experience of ages has shown that a man who works on the land is purer, nobler, higher, and more moral... Agriculture should be at the basis of everything. That's my idea.

—Nikolai Gogol

Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected.

—George Washington

Industry, economy, honesty, and kindness form a quartet of virtues that will never be improved upon.

—James Oliver

Stories don't teach us to be good; it isn't as simple as that. They show us what it feels like to be good, or to be bad. They show us people like ourselves doing right things and wrong things, acting bravely or acting meanly, being cruel or being kind, and they leave it up to our own powers of empathy and imagination to make the connection with our own lives. Sometimes we do, sometimes we don't. It isn't like putting a coin in a machine and getting a chocolate bar; we're not mechanical, we don't respond every time in the same way...

The moral teaching comes gently, and quietly, and little by little, and weighs nothing at all. We hardly know it's happening. But in this silent and discreet way, with every book we read and love, with every story that makes its way into our heart, we gradually acquire models of behavior and friends we admire and patterns of decency and kindness to follow.

--Philip Pullman

A value is some aspect of human experience to be preserved, fought for, striven for, sacrificed for. If education is a value to me, then I sacrifice other things for education; if family is a value, then I sacrifice other things for family; if work is a value—etc. Americans profess a common set of values: Judeo-Christian values, political values, legal values, educational values, social values, economic and even cultural values. These values have often been observed more in the breach, and there has been no end of criticism of Americans for their values. Among the earliest and most impassioned of these critics must rank black writers who, from the beginning, have been questioning these values.

—Mary Rose  
Shaughnessy

When I was a child, when I was an adolescent, books saved me from despair: that convinced me that culture was the highest of values.

—Simone de Beauvoir

We need to care less about whether our children are academically gifted & more about whether they sit with the lonely kid in the cafeteria.

—Internet Meme

The whole gangster mentality, it's killing our youth. Black males, we're really just choking ourselves with this whole macho shit, where you can't show any tenderness, no vulnerability, no nothing. You have to be granite, 100 percent. And that's just not natural. And another thing: you have a hundred thousand black kids across this country failing class's on purpose because of peer pressure. And if you speak proper English, and you get straight A's in school, then you're considered a white boy or a white girl. But if you're hanging on the corner, scratching your nuts, drinking, then you're down. So, you know, the whole value system is fucked up; ignorance is being championed over intelligence.

--Spike Lee

The glory that goes with wealth is fleeting and fragile; virtue is a possession glorious and eternal.

—Sallust

Tell me. Given the choice, which would you prefer: happiness while your friends are in pain, or to share in their suffering?

—Sophocles

Prejudices, as is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education; they grow there, firm as weeds among rocks.

--Charlotte Brontë

If children are slaughtered in their school and your reaction is 'Don't you dare think about taking my guns!' rather than 'How do we stop this from ever happening again??' then we don't have a difference in political opinion. We have a difference in morality.

—Zack Hunt

Anyone who pays for more than half of their stuff in the self checkout is a total moron. There is NO MORAL ISSUE with stealing from a store that forces you to use self checkout, period. THEY ARE CHARGING YOU TO WORK AT THEIR STORE.

—Rene Chun

Happiness is that state of consciousness which proceeds from the achievement of one's values.

—Ayn Rand

The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.

—Omar N. Bradley

There are several good protections against temptations, but the surest is cowardice.

—Mark Twain

Sincerity and truth are the basis of every virtue.

—Confucius

The *Bible* contains 6 admonishments to homosexuals and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love heterosexuals. It's just that they need more supervision.

—Lynn Lavner

Reason often makes mistakes, but conscience never does.

—Josh Billings

The IKEA effect...is defined as 'the tendency for people to place a disproportionately high value on objects that they partially assembled themselves.

—Ben Yagoda

Integrity is choosing your thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain.

—Chris Karcher

We cultivate our feelings the way we cultivate a garden: we can't entirely prevent weeds from coming up, but we can take care to remove them before they do much harm.

—Phillip Cary

Good character is all about improving your personal moral values to advance to a more desirable state.

—Joan Jessalyn Cox

Parents are usually more careful to bestow knowledge on their children rather than virtue, the art of speaking well rather than doing well; but their manners should be of the greatest concern.

—R. Buckminster Fuller

Virtue has never been as respectable as money.

—Mark Twain

The very spring and root of honesty and virtue lie in good education.

—Plutarch

It's all very well to have principles, but when it comes to money you have to be flexible.

—Eugene Ormandy

America is never wholly herself unless she is engaged in high moral principle. We as a people have such a purpose today. It is to make kinder the face of the nation and gentler the face of the world.

—George H. W. Bush

It used to be that cheating was done by the few, and most often they were the weaker students who couldn't get good grades on their own. There was fear of reprisal and shame if apprehended. Today, there is no stigma left. It is accepted as a normal part of school life, and is more likely to be done by the good students, who are fully capable of getting high marks without cheating. 'It's not the dumb kids who cheat,' one Bay Area prep school student told me. 'It's the kids with a 4.6 grade-point average who are under so much pressure to keep their grades up and get into the best colleges. They're the ones who are smart enough to figure out how to cheat without getting caught.'

—Regan McMahon

Nationally, 75 percent of all high school students cheat. But the ones who cheat more are the ones who have the most to lose, which is the honors and AP (advanced placement) students. Eighty percent of honors and AP students cheat on a regular basis....For kids with a very high GPA and very high SAT scores, who have taken a ton of AP classes, what distinguishes them is how perfect they are. So there's no room for any kind of error. And if there's no room for error, you tend to cheat, even though these students would have done just fine on the test. They say they cheat because 'this is my safety net.'

—Denise Pope

Athletes in the high-profile male sports such as football, baseball and basketball are more willing to cheat than other athletes. The one women's sport that yields similar results is softball. For generations, sports have been perceived as an endeavor that builds character and instills positive values in youth. Study results prompted many to ask: Just what are the coaches teaching these kids?

The major male sports seem to be spawning a win-at-any-cost mentality that carries over into the classroom. Thirty-seven percent of boys and 20 percent of girls said it was proper for a coach to instruct a player to fake an injury. Forty-three percent of boys and 22 percent of girls surveyed said it was proper for a coach to teach basketball players how to illegally hold and push, for example. Now that is clearly illegal. Whether you call it cheating or just breaking the rules, it's illegal. It changes the game. You're not supposed to hold. In a survey, a substantial number of the young people thought that was permissible. So you have to ask yourself, what is that telling us about the values that sports are generating?

The minimum-GPA factor and the time-management issue—fitting studying in amid the practices and games. I think what allows them to succumb to it is also the fact that there's a sort of mental attitude that it's not that big a deal. I don't think they lose a lot of sleep over it. So as an ethicist, that's the piece of it I worry about. Is there no conscience operating?

—Michael Josephson

The pressure to succeed at all costs has boosted cheating levels in college to record levels also. A graduate of San Francisco's independent Urban School, whom we'll call Ellen, now a junior at the University of Southern California, says, 'Everyone cheats. There is no cushion, so you have to do well; there isn't a choice. In college, there is no room for error. You cannot fail. You refuse to fail. People become desperate, so they'll do anything to do well. That's why people resort to paying others to do their papers. Because you feel: Mess up once and you are screwed. The end.'

Tests are a big part of the grade in college, she says, and those are largely multiple-choice, which were a rude shock to someone coming from a progressive high school. 'It's just memorization,' says Ellen. 'I came from Urban, where I was taught to bask in the glory of learning something, not to just sit down the night before with a bunch of kids on Adderall and go through the 30-page study guide and memorize as much as I can. And you can say that taking a drug to stay up so you can study is another form of cheating.'

—Regan McMahon

...the widespread use by high school and college student of the drugs Adderall and Ritalin, normally prescribed to kids diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. Students without the disorder find them easy to obtain legally (college students often use the phrase 'I'm having a little trouble focusing' at the campus health center to get a prescription) or illegally from students sharing their prescription or selling pills for profit. Ellen says some college students will trade marijuana for Adderall. Pope says use of stimulants is on the rise in high school, and more and more kids are using them to take the SAT. As in the debate over the use of steroids in sports, some students don't feel it's morally wrong—because it's still your brain at work—and are ignoring the health risks of taking a drug not meant for them, with no mon-

itoring of dosage or side effects by a doctor....It was No-Doz and caffeine. Now, especially in the past five years, it has switched to Adderall, Ritalin and illegal stimulants.

A lot of students' philosophy is 'Cheat or be cheated.' So many of their friends are cheating, they figure they'd be a chump not to. 'If you're the one honest kid, you're actually going to get the lower grades or the lower test scores.'

—Denise Pope

Cheating is so common in middle school and high school that after a while 'you just get used to it. It's not even a moral issue for high schoolers. Kids have become immune to it.'

A popular method of cheating is networking, which...is 'the easygoing smart kid gives the answers to some other kid.'

'There was one time in a science class in freshman year when I was networking with some other girl and we didn't get caught. We both got A's. It was a great feeling, actually, I'd have to say with no regret, mainly because I knew I would never have to use that information ever again.

Technology is a catalyst, but text-message cheating is big because the cheaters are sending out the message. Some people keep their integrity, but some fall into the trap when it's suggested.

—Pirouz Mehmandoust,  
High School  
Student

One of the most disturbing trends is that behavior once considered cheating is no longer thought to be so. Copying homework, for example. An eighth-grader in private school says, 'That's not cheating, it's helping.'

—Regan McMahon

We call it the morning scramble. In the morning at a high school, you see a ton of kids sitting around copying each other's homework. Because a percentage of their grade is based on their turning in their homework. And a lot of these kids are doing so many classes and after-school activities that there's no way they could possibly do all the work required of them. So kids don't even count that as cheating. That's just sort of survival for them: divvying up the work. That's why they're IM-ing (instant messaging) all the time while they're doing homework. It's another way of divvying up the work. It's a way of ensuring that you get it done. It doesn't matter how you do it, just get it done and get it in.

—Denise Pope

Even if kids are not aware of cheating scandals like Enron, they are absolutely influenced by the role models they see close to them. So when they see their parent go ‘diagnosis shopping’ to get a doctor to say they have ADD so they can have extra time to complete their SAT test, or they hear a coach tell them to fake an injury in football when their team is out of time-outs to gain an unofficial one, kids get the message that it’s OK, even necessary, to do take whatever steps to gain an advantage. And to an adolescent that may translate as lie, cheat and steal.

—Denise Pope

The interesting thing about cheating is that it’s a window into a kid’s soul, and into the family’s soul, too. Because so many of these kids are cheating to please their parents—to get a grade, to get into college, whatever. The 100 or so academic integrity cases I dealt with in 20 years as a high school English teacher and in two years as a vice principal in charge of disciplinary matters showed how desperate kids are to please their parents and help their friends.

—Joe Di Prisco

In the large body children’s literature...many resources can be found for fostering the moral growth of young people. To prepare children to think critically about ethical concerns, schools should emphasize the thoughtful reading of such literature....Well-trained teachers, who understand the needs of students and who value literature, can identify appropriate books and develop creative critical-thinking activities based on them. Every time a story is read aloud or a novel discussed, such teachers are fostering moral education.

Recent research has shown the effectiveness of using literature and structured discussions of moral dilemmas to stimulate the growth of children’s moral judgment. Indeed, the value of literature in enriching the lives of children is manifold. Above all, books provide pleasure and insight. The narrative patterns of storytelling reflect an ordered way life. And by imaginatively entering the fictional worlds created by talented authors, children come to perceive their own environment and other people in fresh ways.

Through the vicarious experiences reading offers, children can see and feel how others have lived, and understand how they have dealt with the universal questions of life.

And stories can become quests for self-discovery. Facing the conflicts and dilemmas posed by a given tale, the young reader postulates fundamental questions: ‘Who am I?’ ‘What is my place in the world?’ ‘How can I make this a better world?’

—Jerry Watson

A fundamental goal of education is to enhance students' ability to analyze critically not only their own behavior but also that of others. While we remind ourselves, for instance, that we are all capable of telling lies, the more formidable task is to discern when others are lying to us. To help children develop character, we must ask them to judge others' characters.

We must prepare children to cope with living in a world of uncertainty—not to dissolve in cynical despair, but to function with a healthy sense of suspicion about what they see, hear, and read.

—Jerry Watson

Universal values cannot be taught directly, but must be absorbed by interacting with adults and peers. The reading and sharing of literary experiences serves as a bridge for such involvement.

—Lawrence Kohlberg

Do we want our children to know what honesty means? Then we might teach them about Abe Lincoln walking three miles to return six cents and, conversely, about Aesop's shepherd boy who cried wolf.

Do we want our children to know what courage means? Then we might teach them about Joan of Arc, Horatius at the Bridge, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

Do we want them to know about kindness and compassion, and their opposites? Then they should read *A Christmas Carol* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* and, later on, *King Lear*.

—William Bennett

Increasingly, Americans are pursuing a selfish individualism that is inconsistent with strong families and strong communities. This movement is fueled by the media...which suggests that personal happiness is the highest good and that it can be achieved by pursuing pleasure and material goods. This message stands in stark contrast to the traditional Judeo-Christian values of community and self-sacrifice for the welfare of others.

—Peter Uhlenberg and  
David Eggebeen

Chasing a man is not winning. The only thing you win is the loss of your dignity. Confidence is knowing your value, instead of expecting a man's love to provide you with value.

— Shannon L. Alder

Your core values are your deciding factors for success.

—Tobi Delly

I am poor and naked, but I am the chief of the nation. We do not want riches but we do want to train our children right. Riches would do us no good. We could not take them with us to the other world. We do not want riches. We want peace and love.

—Sioux Chief Red Cloud

If you survey American parents about what they want for their kids, more than 90 percent say one of their top priorities is that their children be caring. This makes sense: Kindness and concern for others are held as moral virtues in nearly every society and every major religion. But when you ask children what their parents want for them, 81 percent say their parents value achievement and happiness over caring.

—Adam Grant and  
Allison Sweet  
Grant

We don't think parents should police friendships, but we do think it's important to nudge kids to notice classmates who are kind and compassionate. We can ask how those children treat others, and how they make others feel. That's a starting point for developing friendships with children who have compatible values—not ones who stomp all over them. We tell our own children that they shouldn't hang out with the popular kids who sneer and laugh when a classmate trips in the cafeteria. They should get to know the kids who help pick up her tray.

—Adam Grant and  
Allison Sweet  
Grant

Quite a bit of evidence suggests that children who help others end up achieving more than those who don't. Boys who are rated as helpful by their kindergarten teacher earn more money 30 years later. Middle-school students who help, cooperate, and share with their peers also excel—compared with unhelpful classmates, they get better grades and standardized-test scores. The eighth graders with the greatest academic achievement, moreover, are not the ones who got the best marks five years earlier; they're the ones who were rated most helpful by their third-grade classmates and teachers. And middle schoolers who believe their parents value being helpful, respectful, and kind over excelling academically, attending a good college, and having a successful career perform better in school and are less likely to break rules.

—Adam Grant and  
Allison Sweet  
Grant

The philosophers Justin Tosi and Brandon Warmke have proposed the useful phrase moral grandstanding to describe what happens when people use moral talk to enhance their prestige in a public forum. Like a succession of orators speaking to a skeptical audience, each person strives to outdo previous speakers, leading to some common patterns. Grandstanders tend to ‘trump up moral charges, pile on in cases of public shaming, announce that anyone who disagrees with them is obviously wrong, or exaggerate emotional displays.’ Nuance and truth are casualties in this competition to gain the approval of the audience. Grandstanders scrutinize every word spoken by their opponents—and sometimes even their friends—for the potential to evoke public outrage. Context collapses. The speaker’s intent is ignored.

—Jonathan Haidt and  
Tobias Rose-  
Stockwell

Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone’s lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don’t have to compromise convictions to be compassionate.

—Rick Warren

You’re not rich until you have things money can’t buy.

—Garth Brooks

Among the many purposes of schooling, four stand out to us as having special moral value: to love and care, to serve, to empower, and, of course, to learn.

—Andy Hargreaves and  
Michael Fullen

No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness, and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.

--Emma Goldman

The teacher’s art consists in this: To turn the child’s attention from trivial details and to guide his thoughts continually towards relations of importance which he will one day need to know that he may judge rightly of good and evil in society.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I have learned that as long as I hold fast to my beliefs and values. and follow my own moral compass, then the only expectations I need to live up to are my own.

—Michelle Obama

The Holocaust was legal. Slavery was legal. Segregation was legal. The brave woman who cared for and hid my 6-year-old aunt in an attic in Budapest was a criminal. She broke the law by sheltering Juden. Legality is not a guide for morality.

—Internet Meme

Friendship was given by nature to be an assistant to virtue, not a companion in vice.

—Cicero

It is right to hate sin, but not to hate the sinner.

—Giovanni Guareschi

Tell me thy company, and I'll tell thee what thou art.

—Miguel de Cervantes

Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company.

--George Washington

When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something.

— John Lewis

The home is the chief school of human virtues.

—William Ellery  
Channing

The values of medical research are the most universal values on earth, and they are the most intimate and important values to every human being that lives.

—Frederick T. Gates

Parents bequeath their DNA to their offspring, but they...also transmit skills, knowledge, values, tools, habits.

—Judith Shulevitz

The seven sins are wealth without works, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principle.

--Mahatma Gandhi

In a mixed-age [school] group, [Angela Duckworth] says, ‘the 10-year-old takes the hand of the 5-year-old and looks both ways crossing the street. The 5-year-old looks up to the 10-year-old with admiration and trust, and does as they are told. In contrast, when you throw hundreds of kids of exactly the same age together, attention goes, unhelpfully, to comparisons within the group: Who is smartest? Who is fastest? Who is prettiest?’ This steers children’s values away from kindness, trust, and community and toward status competition, which can generate stress and bullying.

—Erika Christakis

The value we place on the athlete is greater than the value we place on the scholar. Two kids walk into the barbershop, and one is a pretty good basketball player. People will be like, ‘You gotta watch him. He’s got a jumper. He’s got a shot at the NBA.’ And if a kid comes in and has won two science fairs in a row and got a grant? No one says, ‘that’s the next Mark Zuckerberg.’ Or ‘He’s going to be Bill Gates.’ They don’t celebrate him.

—Martellus Bennett

Mostly it is loss which teaches us about the worth of things.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

Education is teaching our children to desire the right things.

—Plato

Life teaches us the right path is rarely the easy one.

—Roy T. Bennett

Children are people, and they should have to reach to learn about things, to understand things, just as adults have to reach if they want to grow in mental stature. Life is composed of lights and shadows, and we would be untruthful, insincere, and saccharine if we tried to pretend there were no shadows. Most things are good, and they are the strongest things; but there are evil things too, and you are not doing a child a favor by trying to shield him from reality. The important thing is to teach a child that good can always triumph over evil.

—Walt Disney

For values or guiding principles to be truly effective they have to be verbs. It’s not ‘integrity,’ it’s ‘always do the right thing.’ It’s not ‘innovation,’ it’s ‘look at the problem from a different angle.’ Articulating our values as verbs gives us a clear idea—we have a clear idea of how to act in any situation.

—Simon Sinek

The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

What matters most in a child's development, they say, is not how much information we can stuff into her brain in the first few years. What matters, instead, is whether we are able to help her develop a very different set of qualities, a list that includes persistence, self-control, curiosity, conscientiousness, grit and self-confidence.

—Paul Tough

We try so hard to instruct our children in all the right things—teaching good from bad, explaining choices and consequences—when in reality most lessons are learned through observation and experience. Perhaps we'd be better off training our youth to be highly observant.

—Richelle E. Goodrich

Stand up to hypocrisy. If you don't, the hypocrites will teach. Stand up to ignorance, because if you don't, the ignorant will run free to spread ignorance like a disease. Stand up for truth. If you don't, then there is no truth to your existence. If you don't stand up for all that is right, then understand that you are part of the reason why there is so much wrong in the world.

—Suzy Kassem

What is true education? It is awakening a love for truth; giving a just sense of duty; opening the eyes of the soul to the great purpose and end of life. It is not so much giving words, as thoughts; or mere maxims, as living principles. It is not teaching to be honest, because 'honesty is the best policy'; but because it is right. It is teaching the individual to love the good, for the sake of the good; to be virtuous in action because one is so in heart.

—David O. McKay

He who stops being better stops being good.

--Oliver Cromwell

It is not what one does that is wrong, but what one becomes as a consequence of it.

—Oscar Wilde

The ideals that children hold have important implications for their school experiences. Children who believe in the value of hard work and responsibility and who attach importance to education are likely to have higher academic achievement and fewer disciplinary problems than those who do not have these ideals. They are also less likely to drop out of school. Such children are more likely to use their out-of-school time in ways that reinforce learning. For example, high school students who believe in hard work, responsibility, and the value of education spend about 3 more hours a week on homework than do other students. This is a significant difference since the average student spends only about 5 hours a week doing homework.

—U.S. Department of  
Education—*What  
Works*

Some know the value of education by having it. I know it's value by not having it.

—Frederick Douglass

Dear Santa:

Define 'Good.'

—Internet Meme

Research experts want to know what can be done about the values of poor segregated children; and this is a question that needs asking. But they do not ask what can be done about the values of the people who have segregated these communities. There is no academic study of the pathological detachment of the very rich...

—Jonathan Kozol

Education becomes most rich and alive when it confronts the reality of moral conflict in the world.

—Howard Zinn

Unless education promotes character making, unless it helps men to be more moral, more just to their fellows, more law abiding, more discriminatingly patriotic and public spirited, it is not worth the trouble taken to furnish it.

—William Howard Taft

Educating the head without educating the heart is no education at all.

—Aristotle

In cases of doubtful morality we usually ask ourselves if there is any harm in doing this; it might be better to ask, is there any harm in letting it alone.

—George Horace Lorimer

Collateral learning in the way of formation of enduring attitudes, of likes and dislikes, may be and often is much more important than the spelling lesson or lesson in geography or history that is learned.

—John Dewey

A definition of right and wrong is a definition established not only by time, but also by simple geography. You could allow them to notice that some activities on your planet (prostitution, for instance) are illegal in one place, and, just a few miles down the road, legal in another. And so, whether a person is judged as having done something wrong is not a matter of what that person has actually done, but of where he has done it.

—Neale Donald Walsch

Wisdom is not gained by knowing what is right. Wisdom is gained by practicing what is right, and noticing what happens when that practice succeeds and when it fails. Wise people do not have to be certain what they believe before they act. They are free to act, trusting that the practice itself will teach them what they need to know.

—Barbara Brown Taylor

Perhaps the greatest of all pedagogical fallacies is the notion that a person learns only what he is studying at the time. Collateral learning in the way of formation of enduring attitudes may be and often is more important than the spelling lesson, or the lesson in geography or history. For these attitudes are fundamentally what count in the future.

—John Dewey

Chasing a person doesn't give you value or build values in you. You earn your value by chasing morality and practicing dignity.

—Shannon L. Alder

The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Instead of being presented with stereotypes by age, sex, color, class, or religion, children must have the opportunity to learn that within each range, some people are loathsome and some are delightful.

—Margaret Mead

The majority of children born into the world tend to inherit the beliefs of their parents, and that to me is one of the most regrettable facts of them all.

—Richard Dawkins

The values of the world we inhabit and the people we surround ourselves with have a profound effect on who we are.

—Malcolm Gladwell