

NSLF CONNECT

SESSION 5: Ideals, Values & Purpose

Every good leader can only be so if she has good values! It's not enough to have good intentions or ideals – that won't define the nature of your leadership: your values will. And what is your most important value? That is going to define your purpose as a leader and give direction to everything that you do.

Faith and values have an important relationship with each other

Faith creates a *climate of belief* that either helps or hinders the formation of good values

Eg: It's hard to value teamwork if you don't have faith in the value and potential of others

Values vs ideals. Ideals are our *noble aspirations*

Unfortunately, we can convince ourselves that our ideals are actually our values

But our values are what they are, regardless of how we feel about that

If you want to know what your values are, get someone to follow you around for two weeks!

Our values can be defined as our *lasting beliefs about what's truly important in life*

Values are things like: belonging, family, possessions, spirituality, achievement, success

Important to accept that not all values are equal

Some will produce inspired leadership, some terrible leadership

Hitler was true to his values and look how that turned out

All of us must be willing to put our values up to the scrutiny of others

Not only do we all have values, but we have a hierarchy of values

At least in the lives of effective people, there tends to be something that's most important

Our apex value we might describe as our *purpose*

Our purpose orients all our values in one direction

Without a purpose we tend to be all over the place

It's impossible to be a good leader without a good purpose

In my estimation, there is one universal purpose for which we were all designed: love

When love is your purpose, all other values help to build a world of love

Talking about love and leadership feels a bit strange

But in the most basic unit of society – the family – we all accept love as the purpose

So why not in business or in politics?

Remember when Malcom Turnbull said that the most important thing was love?

Inspiring!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **To what degree, before now, have I thought about what my values are?**
- **What would a management consultant say my values are?**
- **What is my 'purpose'? Do I have one?**