

VALUES TO LIVE BY

The fate of all peoples and nations is determined by the values which govern their decisions.

A value is the relative worth we assign to some aspect of daily life, whether it is to a “thing” or a recognised intrinsic excellence of quality and usefulness expressed in nature or in man.

Today, in this rapidly changing world we witness a basic confrontation between the old and the new: between crystallized, outworn forms of thought and progressive ideas; between self-interest and the good of the whole; between nationalism and an international global consciousness; between a radical conservative fundamentalism and a progressive approach to spiritual living; between material values and spiritual values.

While it is important to be realistic about the urgency of the many crises confronting us, it is well to remember to be wary of pessimism. An optimistic and positive approach takes note of the discord but it also gives full weight and attention to the often less obvious integrative forces at work, for *energy follows thought*. Crises also promote growth and understanding. The current world situation has conveyed a greater clarity to the men and women of goodwill of every faith, the enlightened and thinking men and women (who, though not essentially irreligious, have—in a spirit of rebellion—denied orthodox religion and theology), and the spiritually-minded people as to where they stand and where they draw the line. They have all learned that the spiritual values are the only values that can salvage humanity.

The assumption by orthodox religious people that the word “spiritual” connotes a profound and effective interest in orthodox religion is not borne out by the facts of the spiritual life. The questions of motive, purpose and group usefulness determine the spiritual nature of an activity. To work for the good of the whole, to be cognizant of the One Life pulsating through all forms, and to work in the consciousness that *all men are brothers* are the initial qualities which a citizen of the spiritual kingdom must demonstrate. The word “spiritual” relates to attitudes, to *relationships*, to the moving forward from one level of consciousness to the next; everything is spiritual that tends towards understanding, towards kindness, towards that which is productive of beauty and which can lead men and women on to a fuller expression of their divine potentialities. Such people are not necessarily termed “religious” in the conventional sense of the word, but they are people in whom the intuition has awakened, whose minds are subordinated to the group good, and thus free from all sense of separateness; they are men and women of goodwill, of high mental calibre, with minds well stocked and equipped, but free from personal ambition and selfishness, animated by love of humanity and by a desire to help the race. Such a person is a spiritual person. They stand as one in their recognition that true religion can only come to be interpreted in terms of the will-to-good and its practical expression—*goodwill* and *right human relations*.

RIGHT HUMAN RELATIONS AND GOODWILL

Goodwill is man’s first attempt to express the love of God. Its results on earth will be peace. It is so simple and practical that we fail to appreciate its potency or its scientific and dynamic effect. One person sincerely practicing goodwill in a family can completely change its attitudes. If goodwill were to be really practiced among groups in any nation, by political and religious parties in any nation, and among the nations of the world, it could—in just *fifteen years time revolutionize the world*. This is no idle statement. It is a technique that has never yet been tried on any large scale. Goodwill is the practical technique for

implementing *right human relations*. There are no problems and conditions that cannot be solved by the will-to-good, which, in its practical and dynamic character is "the will to that which is good and *ought to be*." The energy of goodwill is the most potent and abundant spiritual energy available at this time and it is only by applying it with skill that humanity will be able to solve the urgent problems with which it is faced. Goodwill nourishes the spirit of understanding and fosters the manifestation of the *principle of cooperation*. This cooperative spirit is the *secret of all human relations* and the enemy of competition. The reservoir of goodwill between people and nations is humanity's most precious resource. Goodwill is *love in action*.

The fate of men and nations is determined by the *values* which govern their decisions.

Most determinations and decisions affecting the masses are made primarily by governments and corporations. The only control on governments and corporations are the values by which a society chooses to govern itself, which brings us back to our own responsibility here. It is the values we choose to live by as individuals which will qualify the values of our civilisation. What are the values of those who act with goodwill on behalf of the general welfare of all people, and so who can be numbered among those who are the builders for the new world?—New because differently oriented.

A love of truth—which is essential for a just, inclusive and progressive society.

A sense of justice—through a recognition of the rights and needs of all.

A spirit of cooperation—which is based on an active *goodwill* and the principle of *right human relations*.

A sense of personal responsibility—for group, community and national affairs.

Serving the common good—through the *sacrifice of selfishness*. Only that which is good for all is good for each one—one for all and all for one!

These are *spiritual values*, inspiring the conscience and the consciousness of those who serve to create a better future and way of life.

The key to humanity's trouble (focusing as it has in the economic difficulties of the past two hundred years and in the theological impasse of the orthodox religions) has been to take and not to give, to accept and not to share, to grasp and not to distribute. This has involved the breaking of a law which places humanity in a position of positive guilt: *War is the dire penalty that mankind pays for this great sin of separativeness*.

Impressions from the Spiritual Hierarchy, the true inner government of the planet, have been received, distorted, misapplied and misinterpreted, and the task of the New Group of World Servers is to offset this evil.

Humanity has never really lived up to the teachings given to it. Spiritual impression, whether conveyed by the Christ, by Krishna or by Buddha (and passed on to the masses by Their disciples) has not yet been expressed as was hoped. Men do not live up to what they already know; they fail to make practical their information; they short-circuit the light; they do not discipline themselves; greedy desire and unlawful ambition control and not the inner knowledge. To put it scientifically and from the inner knowledge: Spiritual impression has been interrupted and there has been interference with the divine circulatory flow. It is the task of the disciples of the world to restore this flow and to stop this interference. This is the major problem facing spiritual people at this time.

Only the voice of a trained public opinion and the intelligent demand of the masses for *right human relations* can save the world from chaos. If this is so, then the duty of each

individual disciple, man and woman of goodwill of every faith, and every intelligent thinker is also clear . . .