Values and Employment Objectives

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As one finishes college and begins looking into opportunities of employment and/or furthering education, he or she must first take a step back to review his or her values and employment objectives. Only after a self evaluation can a person begin to make decisions regarding the future of the individual. The time for just a self evaluation has come for me. This informal paper aims to fulfill a prerequisite to the next stage in my life by outlining where my values lie as a man and what objectives I have as a future employee.

First, I begin with my values as a person. My family and faith precede other aspects of my life, so I guess two of my primary values would be a strong faith and cohesive family. The older I get the more important my family becomes to me and the more time I spend exploring faith. My family is largely responsible for what type of person I am today, and I like the type of person I am. So I try to keep in close contact with them as they are part of who I am. Many people say that the act of having children is an attempt of the parents to live forever. In a sense, my desire to keep my family around me is similar to the idea of having children in order to live forever—I suppose I keep my family around me in order to keep me being the same person.

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parents continue to make sacrifices so that my sister and I can enjoy a better life than they did. Mind you, I don’t mean to imply that my parents’ lives were terrible—anyway, I digress. Going back to my original point, I understand well the sacrifices my parents made for me to grow in a supportive environment and environment of love. As a man, I value their years of patience, work, and love, and I further value the ability to do honor to them by being sincere, trustworthy, faithful, forthcoming, and devoted in the things I do and relationships I have. Put simply, the best method about which I have found to express my gratitude to them as a thankful son is to do them honor by living my life as an overall good person. This mode of thinking influences a good portion of my values as a person. One might say that the values I have as a person reflect upon the good values I see in each of my parents.

Essentially, my values are all centered on a faith in a force larger than our own coupled with my desire to honor my parents and family. Faith in a one God simplifies things for me and provides solace when things seem hectic and dreary. Faith in a one God also tends to have people of similar faith and values gravitate to one another. Everyone enjoys being around people of like mind and morality at least every now and then, and so I value my faith as it is an encouragement to maintain my other core values and be humble in things I do and say.

In addition, I value honesty and empathy. Growing up, one of the things (like countless other children around the world) instilled on me was the Golden Rule to treat others as I would want to be treated. I have since learned that people often have little desire to be treated as I want to be treated. For example, I am an analytical type of a person and prefer brutal honesty over sugar-coating things, so I tend to be patently honest and straightforward when dealing with issues and
conversing with other people. Since the realization that not everyone prefers to be dealt with in a straightforward fashion, I have been trying to sugar coat things more often lately in an effort to be more empathetic, but I still value brutal honesty for what it's worth. Empathy—I will discuss more later.

Another pair of values I try to uphold is structure and sincerity. My mind works by taking things down to their most fundamental level. If things are not properly structured in my life and in my mind, then I tend to want to keep breaking things down to their base levels until they become structured one way or another; and if the things change frequently, I sometimes waste time trying to reduce the changed things to their base levels all over again. I'm a history aficionado, too, and enjoy structure as a symbol by which to understand the evolution of an idea or system. By this I mean for anything to reach a level where it can be called "structured," it first must pass through comparatively chaotic stages. Something structured has a certain level of inherent refinement, and I value the chance to experience high-level aspects of all things. The second valued item I mention in the opening sentence of this paragraph is sincerity, and I choose to pair it with structure here because they are closely related in my mind. True sincerity is the equivalent to structured honesty. It is the highest level of honesty. Sincerity in a way reflects a vested interest in the truth or act of honesty being presented, and since I value "my word," (e.g. "You doubt me? I assure you there's no reason to doubt me. You've got my word on it.") I value sincerity as a way to express that not only do I care about the integrity and honesty of what I say but also that I understand your perspective, too.
I respect hard work and aim to treat people with dignity. Naturally, my parents are again to thank for these two values. Maybe the simple awe of a young boy as he watches his parents live their life has caused me to value and respect hard work. Maybe the act of doing hard work brings out some primal instinct of survival, and this primal urge has led me to value and even enjoy hard work. Either way, I am how I am, and even as lazy as I have been lately, I still value and respect hard work. Treating people with dignity, on the other hand, is something I value and make a point to practice every day (unlike hard work, which I do value but sometimes neglect for one reason or another). People say that one should not speak ill of another person until one has walked a mile in his or her shoes. In all honesty, I have not done much traveling outside of a couple trips to Washington D.C., Florida, and dozens of trips to Louisiana and Dallas/Austin, etc. and I am only twenty-three years old; but I truly believe that I have lived a lot and experienced as some things that people are just experiencing that are fifteen years older than me. I know how it feels to compete and win at the highest levels of athletic competitions, and I know how it feels to be a pre-teen and the brunt of your classmates’ jokes because your clothes don’t meet their standards. I know how it feels to see a best friend give birth to a child, and I know how it feels to hold the hand of a loved one as she passes. I know the feeling of owning something for the first time, and I know what it is like to have nothing. As a result, I feel my life has covered the gamut of extremes, and I am thankful for the experiences I have had that have given me the ability to be empathetic to a potpourri of people in different situations. Empathy is something I value strongly because one of the worst feelings one can feel is that of loneliness.

Lastly, I value a sense of adventure and opportunities to understand other people. For brevity’s sake, I will not expound too deeply on these two values. Suffice to say that new challenges and
experiences that accompany adventures appeal to me as someone that wants to be as well-rounded as possible. The valued opportunity to better understand other people goes back to my venerating empathy. The better I understand other people, the better chance I have of keeping peace and solidarity with them.

These values of mine—faith, family, structure, empathy, a sense of adventure, etc—that I haphazardly attempt to delineate here form the foundation of my employment objectives. Because of my value of faith, I aim to seek employment in an organization that is not only ethical but moral and indicative of a God-fearing person. Because of my devotion to my parents and my desire to bring honor to what they have given me, I would prefer an employer that helps support the means by which I can provide for both myself and my parents as we age together. Additionally, I want to work in an environment where people understand me or at least where people have the capacity to understand me given enough time (read: empathy). I also want to work in an environment where people are honest with one another. (Recall empathy and honesty being two of my core values.) Superficial, Machiavellian work environments do not suit me well. Leadership and group projects offer unique opportunities to understand how other people think, act, and live; correspondingly, any employment of mine must have a capacity for me to stretch the part of my persona that yearns to be social and interact with other people. Finally, it would be fantastic if I managed to obtain these things during the course of my employment while also having an outlet for my deep-seeded, adventurous spirit. If worse comes to worse, however, and my employment does not offer any adventure in itself, then I hope it at least puts me in a position to embark on a few adventures of my own outside of the work place.
Other than this paper, it has been years since I have inscribed any sort of self-reflection. After having finally forced myself to sit and do it, I must admit that I have enjoyed it. Some thoughts never get transferred to paper and drift along with the individual without much consideration. Recording them can be fun and gauging. Reflections like these rarely ever enlighten the individual, of course. They tell the author what he or she already knows. That is not to say that written musings hold no intrinsic value either. Along with being a bit therapeutic, the act of printing one’s values and objectives allows, if nothing else, one to give some structure to them, and you know how much I value structure.