

WHAT DEFINES US?

by Sally Burgess, Forefront Families LLC

How far have we come during the last 70 years in regards to the dictates of fashion? I wonder if we realize just how much we are influenced by clothing trends? Do others judge who we are by what we are wearing? Societal values have changed drastically over the years and, through the media, they influence our thinking way more than we realize. For example, a successful person is judged as either good looking, wealthy, an A+ student or a great athlete. Yes, I know that first impressions count, but first impressions are only skin-deep.

So, what really matters? Inner qualities such as integrity, loyalty, honesty, trustworthiness, respectfulness, forgiveness, obedience and charity are the true values that create our real identity. When we possess these characteristics, we become great family members, friends, employees, team members, parents and role models in society. Such principles help us stand strongly against decaying societal values.

These characteristics start with us

We need to

- Look closely at our own beliefs as parents, and decide what values we want for our families.
- Model the values in front of our kids.
- Train them on each value, allowing initial mistakes but praising them for getting it right.
- Keep at it until it becomes a individual auto response and family norm.

If you have any comments or questions on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact us at sally@forefrontfamilies.org. We invite you to also check out our website at www.forefrontfamilies.org and our blog site at www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com for further assistance.

