Jonathan Kenney

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Values Reflection

My values have been a volatile subject over the past years leading up to college. My entire worldview was shifted in high school as my life began to be more about how I perceived the world instead of what I had been told to believe. I may not have thought about it much this way at the time, but I distinctly remember a time when my core values not only showed up, but clashed drastically with each other. Growing up in a conservative Christian household, I had a lot of ideals about what the world was like and what my place was in it. As I was making my transition to the next phase of maturity in high school, I began to notice a lot of hatred and injustice around me. I attended a private Christian school that was loaded with judgment. I had not realized until one specific day that I had been seamlessly assimilated into this world view, but then a discussion came up in English about a certain people group that most of the other people in my class simply shrugged off as being less-than. They said things that would make an outsider believe they were talking about convicts set for death row. I remember in that moment feeling a grinding transition and conflict in me; my desire for harmony told me not to speak out and make trouble but my sense of justice told me I needed to intervene on behalf of the slandered group. I choose for the sake of harmony to say nothing, and I regret it to this day.

My top values are knowledge, justice, and harmony. Often times these do not cope well together, and after that day I decided I did not want to be passive about such issues anymore. I have learned that my passion for justice and peace can coincide by remaining intelligent (one issue I had at the time is that I was simply ignorant and immature) and always pursuing a calm and peaceful way to be sure fairness is given to everyone. Ironically my experiences at my religious high school ultimately turned me off to the idea of it, but I strive to simply keep an open mind and look for truth wherever I can find it, being sure to always be respectful and humane in all endeavors.