the consequences *of* ideas

Day 1: who are you to say what is right or wrong?
read 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Who gets to choose what is right or wrong? Do you believe there is right and wrong? What has been the foundation of your belief system? Was it your parents? The Church? The Bible? The government? A teacher? A friend? How were your ideas and beliefs formed?

Day 2: do you believe?

Do you agree that:
- ideas are foundational
- ideas become beliefs
- beliefs determine actions
- actions have consequences

Some Examples: What is your belief about marriage? What do you believe about honesty in the work place? What do you believe about helping others? How do you feel about jealousy? Tithing?

Find the ones that have priority in your life and evaluate those ideas and the actions and the consequences that follow them. What do your actions tell you about your beliefs?

Example:
ideas are foundational =

      every person is created in the image of God

ideas become beliefs =

      value human life

beliefs determine actions =

      stand up for unborn children, the elderly, those in need.

actions have consequences =

      lives are changed and made better.

Day 3: the nature and character of God
read 1 John 4:7-21

We believe truth that defines right and wrong is found in the nature and character of God as revealed in Jesus Christ as described in the Bible. We love because God is love. We are honest because God is truth. We seek justice because God is just. We seek to do good because God is good. How should this shape our understanding of right and wrong?

Day 4: as revealed in Jesus Christ
read Hebrews 1:1-3

"...in these last days He has spoken to us by the Son." Jesus was a servant, faithful, and compassionate. He is the example of how we should live. The consequences of Jesus' love for us was to die on the cross. He has forgiven us of all our sins. Ask yourself, honestly, is Jesus your example for your underlying beliefs? When was the last time you changed a belief, action or behavior based on an example in Jesus' life?

Day 5: as described in the Bible
read 2 Timothy 3:16

We find our morality in the principles of the Bible. For instance, we value human life because the Bible says do not kill. We remain faithful in marriage because the Bible teaches the sanctity of marriage. How does the Bible play a role in your life? How many of the beliefs from your list are based on Biblical principles? Have you ever changed a belief, action or behavior because of an example set in the Bible?

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