

Excellence

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I. Introduction.

A. We all have reasons for things that are on the surface and reasons for things that are down deep - our fears, our hopes, etc.

B. Deep down is the real person - and only few times do we break down to that real person.

C. Life is not easily packaged - if it were, we would not easily grow. Life is an adventure of discovery, and God intended it to be that way.

D. Our life with God is growth, discovery and adventure. We appreciate the sweet more by the sorrow.

E. The closer one can stay to the Bible in profile formulations, the better off he will be.

1. It is considered a ministry profile because it labels the flavor of the disciple.

2. Profiles are necessary because it gives a goal to strive for.

3. The profile standards may be adapted to different scenarios.

a. The overseas missionary should be qualified by the minimum standards.

b. There should be a continued development program.

4. There needs to be flexibility within the profile.

a. Culture makes a difference with a profile.

b. The ministry could easily fracture because of differences - there needs to be a unity in heart as international ministries become more independent.

II. Excellence.

A. It means “eminently good” or “first class.”

B. What it is not.

1. It is not perfection because perfection can paralyze. Rather it has to do with striving and not arriving.

2. It is not competition because this leads to pride.

3. It is not ignoring the old landmarks - the basics are rarely changed and need to be revisited in our preaching and teaching.

C. What it is.

1. Excellence is doing first what you can do. (1 Peter 4:10-11, Proverbs 22:29)

a. Every Christian has a gift.

b. To say otherwise is not honoring to the Lord.

c. One should always start by working on strengths because the list of weaknesses is unending. (Colossians 4:17)

2. It means doing that thing well.

a. We are to speak as if it were an oracle of God.

b. We are to serve with the strength that God supplies.

c. How do we know that we are doing something with excellence?

1) There must be enthusiasm. (Colossians 3:23, Ecclesiastes 9:10)

2) Success is measuring what we are with what we could be.

d. Doing something well requires that we set goals correctly. (Galatians 6:4)

1) You examine your conduct.

2) Then you judge your achievement by how you measure against yourself.

3. It means to do it well so that in everything God may be glorified through Christ - it is not about self-exultation. (1 Peter)

III. Goal setting.

A. Setting objectives.

1. The reason for objectives is so that a group is production oriented instead of activity oriented.

a. We tend to err in having objectives as Bible study groups (activities).

- b. This demonstrates that objectives are difficult.
- 2. We are to make disciples and win obedience. (Romans 15)
- 3. Objectives involve quality and not just quantity.
- 4. Overall aims are never obtainable, so intermediate objectives need to be set that are attainable.
- 5. Objectives need to be set by the person who will accomplish them.
- 6. Objectives help to redirect resources and prioritize.
 - a. You are able to ask questions about how you did.
 - b. Then you can evaluate where you are at and where you should be.
- 7. Setting objectives can help in all areas of life and can help you to reprioritize as needed.

Application questions.

1. Explain what excellence is in your own words. What is the reason for excellence?

2. What do you think is the relationship between excellence and goal setting?

3. What are your gifts? How can you focus your life better to live excellently before the Lord?
