

Excellence

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I. God is excellent, all His attributes are excellent, and all that He does is excellent

A. If we are to reflect God (and be His temple) all we do must be excellent (I Corinthians 6:19)

1. For this reason we are called to be perfect (Genesis 17:1; Matthew 5:48)

B. Excellence is a mark of Christian character because it's a mark of Christ

C. To be like Christ (excellent) is to "make the back door look like the front door"

1. There is no aspect of life, no matter how small, that this should not affect

D. The greatest way to maintain excellence in our lives is to surrender our own will and depend on Jesus to work His excellence in us (Hebrews 13:20-21)

II. What can make us better reflect Christ's excellence?

A. We must recognize our own weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9)

B. We should get others praying for us (Colossians 4:12)

C. Someone may share God's word with us (I Thessalonians 3:10)

D. We can get insight from the word directly (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

E. Suffering produces excellence (I Peter 5:10; James 1:2-4)

F. God will give us a desire for a holy life (2 Corinthians 7:1)

G. God will give us a desire for fruit that is brought forth to perfection (Luke 8:14)

III. What are some areas in life to strive to manifest the spirit of excellence?

A. In your witness (Acts 14:1)

B. In the training of others (I Corinthians 14:12; I Corinthians 3:5-15)

C. In the serving of others (Matthew 25:14-30; 2 Corinthians 4:5)

1. What are our motives for serving?

a) God demands a proper attitude for acceptable service

b) Only God can make us have pure motives

c) Ask Him for a spirit of joyful response to His commands, which is excellence

IV. Excellence is achieved by total submission to Christ and by allowing Jesus Christ to flow freely through us (Hebrews 13:20-21)