



The Good News

February 16th, 2020

Volume 20, Issue 7

Being Consistent

By Michael McCleary

The term “consistent” is defined as “constantly adhering to the same principles, course, form, etc.; holding firmly together”. Being consistent is one of the most important attributes we can have as a Christian, as it is one attribute that is most certainly observable by others. Let’s take a look at three areas of life in which we need to be consistent:

Our example – We convert people in one of two ways, and usually it’s a mixture of the two: by teaching them through study, and by teaching them through our example. If we teach our neighbor that it is sinful to be immodestly dressed around others, and are running around outside in our boxers, checking the mail, mowing the yard, or whatever else, we will not be establishing a consistent example that supports what we teach. This is true with all aspects, including social drinking and drunkenness, adultery or fornication, lying and deceiving, profanity, etc. One of the easiest and most destructive ways to submarine a chance to teach another is by being a hypocrite. Paul says in I Cor. 9:26-27, “Therefore I run thus; not with uncertainty. Thus I fight; not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” What does Paul mean by becoming disqualified? This rests in what he says regarding running a race to obtain a prize. There are two parts to this being disqualified. Obviously, if we do not run by the rules (obey God’s commands) we will be disqualified, but Paul links this to preaching to others. This suggests an added implication of hypocrisy, that when we preach to others and then do the very thing we have condemned, we disqualify ourselves both as a runner and as a teacher of others. Consistency is a key part of teaching others.

Our personal habits – This is true for everything from brushing our teeth and flossing every day and cleaning our house on a regular basis to working out or dieting. The key to forming good habits is committing ourselves to an effort on a consistent basis. This is true on a spiritual level as well. Good spiritual habits to form include studying our Bible every day, fighting consistently against temptation, praying several times a day, praying for specific individuals other than ourselves, and many other elements that can produce in us a consistent character.

Our personal family – Consistency in our homes is crucial to producing and maintaining a godly family. Consistent discipline for children, consistent Bible studies as a family, consistent family prayer, and consistent teaching all are elements that can make a spiritually strong family. This holds true when discussing our spiritual family as well. As a congregation of God’s people, we must be consistent in applying God’s Law and keeping the flock pure. When we remain consistent, we not only help maintain the spiritual well-being of the members, but we also set an example for those on the outside that we will not be like other churches that compromise their convictions.

As we consider the importance of being consistent in our lives, all of these aspects are necessary for us to consider and work on as we seek to become more consistent in our characters. All of the decisions we make, ranging from our words to the thoughts we think, must be governed by God’s Word. We must learn to train ourselves to be consistent in every area of our spiritual lives. But it takes work! Let us work and labor for consistency, understanding that it is a necessary characteristic to develop.