

Eight Good Habits

5. Be the Best _____ You Can Be!

Preached: 10/10/2021, Germantown;

Scripture

1 Corinthians 10:27-33

Message:

Make It a Habit to Honor Your Roles

We are in a series of sermon studies on the subject of **Habits**. A few months ago, I came across an article on ChurchLeaders.com, written by Neal Samudre. The title of the article is: **8 Habits of Christians Who Live Out Their Faith Every Day, Not Just on Sunday.**

Habit; NOUN

1. a settled or regular tendency or practice, especially one that is hard to give up.

Samudre is concerned that too often we push our faith to the margins of our life.

“[we] let the things that matter drown in our flooded schedules. This is what has happened to many of us. We’ve let our faith become a Sunday thing, not a 24/7 thing.”

Samudre identifies some practices that will help us to live out our faith everyday. He identifies 8 practices to develop into habits. As these practices become habits living them out will come automatically to us. They will become settled practices that are hard to give up. We won’t have to think about it. We will just do it. They will be a part of our nature as much as the color of our hair or some other feature that is uniquely ours.

So far have talked about four practices that we are trying to turn into habits: **(How many do you remember?)**

1. People who live out their faith every day are in the habit of having “Restorative Times” built into their days.
2. People who live out their faith every day are in the habit of serving others or demonstrating love as a reflex. They don’t have to schedule “Loving or serving”. It is automatic.
3. People who live out their faith every day are in the habit of considering character over other outcomes (personal gain)
4. People who live out their faith every day are in the habit of cultivating community with others.

Now today, we are talking about our Roles in life. ***“People who live out their faith honor their roles to the best of their abilities.”***

Samudre writes of a friend who was ***“constantly aware of his roles and how he served in them – how he loved as a husband, how he served as an employee and how he cared as a father.***

Oftentimes, we can be blind to our roles. But Jesus calls us to glorify Him in these roles. That means choosing to be excellent in our roles. We can’t let them slip by unnoticed any longer.”

Take a moment and make a list of all the roles you fill in your life:

Husband, Father, Mother, Wife, Son, Daughter, Grand Parent, Grand child, Employer, Employee, Co-worker, Pastor, Church Member.... I imagine that the list could go on for some you.

Samudre’s advice is to **BE THE BEST _____ YOU CAN BE.** You fill in the blank. Don’t lose sight of the role that God has given you to fill and do it well.

In the text that I read from 1 Corinthians 10, I believe that **Paul addresses this challenge.** He is addressing a question that the Corinthians had raised. If they are invited to be the guests for a meal, should they eat what is set before them. Paul says yes, that’s fine. But if they discover that the meat is meat that had previously been used for a sacrifice to an idol, they should not eat it. They should avoid eating the meat so they do not give the

impression that they consider the meat to be “holy”. They should not give an impression to their host that legitimizes idolatry.

As Paul continues the discussion, he states that whatever we eat or drink, we should do it for the **purpose of giving glory to God**. Then Paul enlarges the challenge – **Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God**. The principle is not just about eating or drinking, but about everything we do. **Our desire should always be to honor God**. Then Paul adds another layer to the challenge – Whatever we do should not become a hindrance to other people in their faith journey. Do not do anything that will cause someone else to stumble.

This is where this principle ties into the habit we are talking about today. In whatever role you are serving do it in such a way that God will be honored and glorified. AND, don’t behave in your role in a way that your behavior becomes a roadblock to someone else’s faith. Do not cause anyone else to stumble.

Now, think back over that list of roles that you fill in your life.

- **As a husband or wife**, does your behavior toward your spouse attract people to faith, or turn them off? Do people admire the way you love your spouse. Paul’s counsel in Ephesians 5 is that spouses should submit to one another and treat their spouse in the same way they are treated by Christ.
- **As a parent**, do you treat your children with respect, love, patience, kindness – behavior that will cause others to respect you. I have sometimes heard non-believers say things like “If that is the way a Christian parent treats their child, I don’t know if I want anything to do with Jesus.”
- **As an employee** – Are you respectful toward your boss or manager? Do you slander them as you sit around with your co-workers? Can they count on you to get an honest day’s work?
 - **⁵ Slaves, (Read – Workers) obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. (Eph 6:5-8)**
- As an employer, or manager – Do you treat those under your responsibility with dignity and respect? Do you affirm them with kindness words and compliments?
 - **⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. (Eph 6:9)**

We must develop the habit or practice of doing our best in whatever role we find ourselves. There are two criteria by which we measure how well we honor our roles:

1. Am I fulfilling this role in a way that brings glory and honor to God? Does God receive pleasure from the manner in which I fulfill this role?
2. Is my behavior in this role causing others who are watching me to be drawn to God, or am I causing others to stumble, to be “turned off” to the life of Jesus?