

CONSISTANCY IN OUR IMAGE

It has always amazed me when I run into people who portray a certain image in one place and an entirely different image someplace else or in another set of circumstances. Perfectly normal people turn into crazed animals at sporting events, saying or doing things they would not normally do or say. Some men talk and act very differently around women than they do around men. Some maintain a very different image at work than they do at home or in social situations. I don't know why we do it, but we do.

It is important to maintain our positive, Christian image all of the time, no matter what the situation is and no matter who we're dealing with. Jesus said in Matthew 5 that we as Christians are the light of the world and we are to show God to others by the life that we live among them. He chastised the Pharisees and teachers of the law for portraying one image while living another one entirely.

What of us? Is a positive, Christian image important? And if it is, why is it important? Paul gives us some insight into the answers of these questions in **I Thessalonians 4:11-12**:

“...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands...so that your daily life will win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”

We should always strive to spend our lives being the kind of people God wants us to be:

1. QUIET – not obnoxious or overbearing, but quiet and considerate.
2. MIND OUR OWN BUSINESS rather than the business of others. I would suppose that rules out listening to and engaging in gossip!
3. WORK WITH OUR HANDS – work as we are working for the Lord, because in all actuality, we do. **(Colossians 3:17, 24)**

What will be the end result? RESPECT, plain and simple. People will consider us the “salt of the earth” – good people – the kind of people they'd like to get to know. Again, the words of Jesus, speaking to the lights of the world:

“...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

We need to share our relationship with God by the way that you act. A great deal of good can be accomplished if we can only learn to do that.