



CENTRAL IDEA

True Christian excellence is not measured by public recognition, but by a sincere heart that seeks the approval of the Father above all else.

INTRODUCTION

- We live in a world driven by visibility, applause, and recognition.
- it is easy to confuse performance with righteousness. Social media has trained us to measure value by views, likes, and praise.
- [Matthew 6:1](#), Jesus redirects our focus from the crowd to the Father.
- Christ is not condemning good works—He is correcting wrong motives. Excellence in the kingdom of God is not about being seen; it is about being sincere.
- The question is not, “Did people notice?”
The question is, “Was the Father pleased?”

I. EXCELLENCE BEGINS WITH PURE MOTIVES

- Jesus warns against doing righteous acts “to be seen.” The issue is not the act, but the motive behind the act. God examines why we serve, give, teach, or lead.

Proverbs 16:2 ESV

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.

1 Samuel 16:7 ESV

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Colossians 3:23–24 ESV

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Practical & Actionable Applications:

- Before serving in worship, ask: “Am I doing this to glorify God or to impress others?”
- When giving financially, focus on honoring God rather than announcing generosity.
- When teaching a Bible class, aim to help souls grow—not to showcase knowledge.

Action Step:

Develop the habit of silent service—do something beneficial this week that no one else knows about.

II. EXCELLENCE PURSUES INTEGRITY IN SECRET PLACES

- The Father sees what others cannot see.
- Private devotion fuels public faithfulness. If we are careless in private, our public excellence is only momentary and temporary.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 ESV

For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Hebrews 4:13 ESV

And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Practical & Actionable Applications:

- Maintain a consistent private prayer life (not just public prayers).
- Study Scripture personally—not only when preparing to teach.
- Guard moral purity even when no one is watching.
- Practice integrity at work—even when shortcuts are available.

Action Step:

Establish a daily private devotion time this week and guard it like an appointment with God.

III. EXCELLENCE SEEKS ETERNAL REWARD, NOT TEMPORARY PRAISE

- Jesus says those who seek public applause “have their reward.” Earthly praise is temporary. The Father’s approval is eternal.
- We must decide: Do we want applause nor approval later?

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

John 12:42–43 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

Practical & Actionable Applications:

- When criticized unfairly, remain faithful instead of defensive.
- When overlooked for recognition, continue serving faithfully.
- When leadership roles are unavailable, serve where needed anyway.

Action Step:

Memorize [2 Corinthians 5:9](#)

2 Corinthians 5:9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

CONCLUSION

- Excellence in the kingdom of God is not about visibility—it is about sincerity.
- It is not about reputation—it is about righteousness. It is not about the crowd—it is about the Father.
- One day, every hidden motive will be revealed. Every quiet act of faithfulness will be known. The applause of men fades quickly—but the words “Well done, good and faithful servant” will echo for eternity.

