

## “HOW TO BE A WINNER – WITH GOD”

Super Bowl Sunday

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

It is often thought that the godlier we become, the more we'll be transformed into spiritual leaders, serving God and helping others to do the same

Leaders tend to project their passion for advancing the causes of God's Kingdom onto everyone else

Some Christians never become spiritual “leaders” but when it comes to character, relationships, and integrity, they are some of the most Christlike people you'll ever meet

God pleasing spirituality may or may not go hand in hand with spiritual leadership

The truth is some things can't be done, and some people will be below average on the spiritual leadership scale

That doesn't mean something is wrong; it just means they weren't called to be high-impact spiritual leaders

We're not talking about cold & lukewarm Christians who practice casual spirituality and open-handed disobedience

People like Timothy & Titus were not the standard fruit of Paul's ministry. They were the rare & unusual; they were the next generation of leaders

The vast majority of the people Paul led to Christ, and the vast majority of people in the churches he planted, never became leaders or joined Paul on one of his missionary journeys

They were farmers & merchants, mothers & fathers, sons & daughters who quietly lived out changed lives through Christ

In God's eyes their lives were big winners

Leaders & ordinary Christians are both needed – someone had to spread the word; someone had to stay behind and live it out

1Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NIV) “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”

The goal of spirituality is not to lead - it's to know and please God

### *How To Be A Spiritual Winner – 5 Marks*

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV) “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Titus 3:14 (NIV) “Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.”

#### 1. Be faithful to attend worship

Revelation 4:11 (NLT) “You [God] created everything, and it is for Your pleasure, that they exist & were created.”

Mark 12:30 (NCV) “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, all your mind, & all your strength.”

Think of worship as God being the audience, and we are the performers

2. Be an active member of a small group

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Ephesians 2:19 (LB) "You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian"

Small groups are a "life learning lab" where our faith intersects with the real world

3. Honor God with your finances

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

Some want to honor God & can't – start where you are & progressively move forward

Some can honor God and aren't – I encourage you to trust God and start

4. Be involved in a significant ministry helping to advance God's Kingdom

1 Peter 4:10,11 (NLT) "God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God Himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ."

You need a balance between giving & Receiving

5. Seek to influence others for Christ

John 17:18 (TM) "[Jesus said] In the same way that You gave Me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world."

Acts 20:24 (NCV) "The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me – to tell people the Good News about God's grace."

Because all people have eternal life (the question is where will it be spent), we must try to point people to Jesus

My Next Step Today Is...

- I recognize and accept how God has made me – whether a leader or living a quiet life which wins the respect of outsiders
- Of the 5 marks of a winner, I am asking God to help me with number(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- I plan to attend the "Meet the Pastors" lunch on Sun, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at noon