

Are You a Person That God Can Use?

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The Bible teaches that you don't determine a person's greatness by the value of their wealth but by the wealth of their values.

Specifically, God over and over through Scripture gives us five key values, which you find in every great person.

And Paul gives us two examples in the Bible, of individuals model these five values.

Philippians 2:19–23 (NIV84)

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.

In Philippians 2:20 (NIV), he says of Timothy,

“I have no one else like him.”

He's very rare.

And of Epaphroditus he says

Philippians 2:29 (Ph)

“...Hold men like him in highest honor.”

And he gives us a list of characteristics seen in these men: they are passionate, proven, work together with people, are persistent and they know their purpose. These are the five characteristics you find in all great people in God's book.

1. God uses people who are passionate.

– Those who put people before profits.

He gives us the example of Timothy.

Philippians 2:20-21

20 “I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ.”

Timothy is a man who puts people before profits.

Most men are very result oriented. Often women tend to be more relationship oriented than men. We've got to work at this.

The Bible says if I have not love, I'm nothing. The greatest things in life aren't things.

Jesus said "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his soul." We've got to look at relationships to God and to each other. People last, profits don't.

Philippians 2:21 says

"They are all wrapped up in their own affairs."

EX- The man who's all wrapped up in himself is only a mummy.

2. God uses people who are proven.

- Those who put character before conformity. They're not afraid to be different from culture. They're not afraid to stand alone for what's right. They are proven.

They are consistent, putting integrity before conformity. "I don't care what everybody else thinks. I don't care what they're doing. I'm going to do the right thing."

Character before conformity.

Philippians 2:22 (NLT)

“...Timothy has proved himself...he has served me in preaching the Good News.”

The word "proved" literally means "tested character". He didn't bend to pressure. He was a man of conviction.

When you study history, you find that the people who've made the greatest impact in the world were not the smartest people, were not the most educated people, were not the wealthiest people.

The people who changed the world were those with the deepest convictions for good or for bad. They believed it from the depths of their hearts. And they lived it out.

The temptation today is that we tend to be half-committed to a bunch of things, rather than 100% committed to the things that really count. That's what God's looking for.

Lives of conviction that have been proven, lives who put character before conformity.

Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)

“The man [person] of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.”

The bottom line is integrity.

The world is interested in image. God's interested in integrity.

Image doesn't last. It's going to be gone overnight.

Who was on the cover of People magazine three weeks ago? Nobody knows.

But character lasts a lifetime. It's not image that counts. It's character.

It's integrity. That's the bottom line.

We must constantly be checking: “Is my private life consistent with my public image?”

If it's not I'd better change it.”

I'd better not be living Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. I need to be constantly evaluating, “Am I being consistent in my lifestyle publicly and privately.”

3. God uses people who work together.

There are three terms of cooperation.

Philippians 2:25 (NIV)

“I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier.”

-“My brother” It says the church is a family. We're related.

-“fellow worker.” We're given the same task, the same mission. We work and, serve together.

- “fellow soldier.” We're all in the same army. It's a battle out there. It's tough. You get knocked around.

Judges 20:11 (NIV)

“So all the men of Israel got together and united as one man against the city.”

4. God uses people who are persistent.

That's the value that makes you great.

Philippians 2:25b-27 (NIV)

“...He is your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs...He was ill and almost died. But God had mercy on him...”

God is looking for men who'll Stick with it.

James 2:17 (NIV)

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by actions is dead.”

5. God uses people who know their purpose.

You take risks for God's kingdom.

You serve God and others with reckless abandonment.

Philippians 2:29-30 (NIV)

“Welcome him in the Lord with great joy and honor men like him because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.”

Romans 12:1-2 (GN)

“So then my brothers, because of God's great mercy to us, offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him. Don't conform to the standard of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind.”

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV)

“The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for people that He may show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward Him.”

“Today, the greatest challenge that you will ever face in your life is the challenge to be a person that God can use.”