

How we See: Eye to Eye
The Way of Excellence in a World Wishing to be Elite

I. Wishing For Elite

A. Never Measuring Up

"I wish I was more.."

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Well spoken | 5. Strong willed |
| 2. Sixth sensed | 6. Deep pocketed |
| 3. Quick witted | 7. Better résumé |
| 4. Brilliant minded | |

-Desperate to have the total package and be perceived as *ELITE*

B. A Measure Worth Forgetting

1. Elitism is Driven by Pride
 - Wanting to impress those we admire and ignore those we don't
2. Elitism is Motivated by Fear
 - Causing us to be fearful of our future and defined by our past
3. Elitism is Measured by Other People
 - Attempting to honor ourselves at the expense of others

JESUS CALLS US TO LIVE FOR THE EXCELLENT... NOT THE ELITE

II. A More Excellent Way to Live (1 Cor 12:31- 13:13)

A. Redefining Excellence:

1. If I...
 - speak in tongues of morals and angels (vs1)
 - have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge (vs2)
 - have all faith as to remove mountains (vs2)
 - give away all my possessions and hand over my body so I may boast (vs3)
2. Excellent: a literal picture is "a throw beyond the measuring stick"

B. Reviving Excellence:

1. Excellence is Led In Humility (vs 4-5a)

- it loves with patience
- it loves with kindness
- it loves without envy
- it loves without boasting or arrogance
- it loves without being rude

EXCELLENCE HONORS GOD AND INSPIRES OTHERS

2. Excellence is Motivated by Gratitude (vs 5)

- it loves without insisting its own way
- it loves without being irritable and quick to anger
- it loves without resent or keeping a score card

EXCELLENCE IS A WALK OF GRATITUDE AND
THE GOSPEL IS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF GRATITUDE IN THE WORLD.

3. Excellence is Built from Grace (vs 6-7)

- it loves without rejoicing in wrongs but rather in the truth
- it loves by bearing all things
- it loves by believing all things
- it loves by hoping all things
- it loves by enduring all things

EXCELLENCE ISN'T OPPOSED TO EFFORT, IT'S OPPOSED TO EARNING

EXCELLENCE:
IS LED WITH HUMILITY;
IS MOTIVATED BY GRATITUDE;
AND IS BUILT FROM GRACE.

III. But How In This World?! (1 John 4:10-21)

THE GOSPEL GROUNDS US IN GRACE,
OVERFLOWS US IN GRATITUDE,
AND LEADS US IN HUMILITY
THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY IS THE WAY OF JESUS.

" There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. "

-1 John 4:18-19