

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

Topic: Consistency

INTRODUCTION: One of the major challenges facing our world _____ is the widespread plague of instability and inconsistency in _____ who are in every facet of life.

I. GOD'S CONSISTENCY:

A. In His Person:

1. One thing is clear from reading the _____ of God and that is that God is consistent and unchangeable in His ways and in His _____. Mal. 3:6
2. Whether it is the Lord Jehovah of the Old Testament or _____ of the New Testament, the Lord is the same every _____ and always. Heb. 13:8

B. In His Creation:

1. The Lord set in motion a pattern of consistency in _____ and we witness it every day and every year as the seasons _____ and go. Gen. 1:14-16
2. The Creator reinforced the pattern of consistency after the _____ of Noah's time, and again we witness that consistent pattern that is still in _____ until today. Gen. 8:22

II. MAN'S INCONSISTENCY:

A. Many Examples:

1. The Word of God gives an array of displays of inconsistency of _____ beings, who are created in the _____ of God, but since the fall of man into sin, are plagued with instability. Job 14:1
2. An entire group of people that we know as the children of _____ were examples of the traits of inconsistency and we are encouraged in the Word of God not to _____ their examples. I Cor. 10:1- 6, 11

B. Individuals:

1. When Jacob called his sons to his bedside as he lay _____, his pronouncements about them revealed their character traits and how that would affect their _____ as well as the present. Gn. 49:3,4
2. Reuben, who should have been the pride and joy of his father and the successor to _____ on the family name, instead had developed a behavior that left him _____ and undependable.
3. The Word of God states that an inconsistent or _____ individual is a hindrance to progress and growth. Pr. 25:19

III. SOURCES OF INCONSISTENCY:

A. Family Situations:

1. One of the greatest builders of inconsistency in the _____ of an individual is a poor family situation, which may be: 1. A home without a good _____ figure 2. Alcoholism or drug _____ in the family 3. Constant bickering and fighting between _____ and _____. Pr. 14:1
2. When children grow up in an unstable _____ environment, it is very likely that patterns of incon-

sistency will be developed in them because of the examples their parents are setting in _____ of them.

B. Personal Choices:

1. Another major factor in developing into an inconsistent and unstable _____ is the choices that one makes when they get into their teen-age _____ and beyond.
2. If one comes from a stable _____ environment but chooses to hang out with friends and people that are unstable and inconsistent, unfortunately they will become _____ them. Pr. 4:14

IV. CHANGING TO BECOME CONSISTENT:

A. Making the Decision:

1. In order to change anything in our lives, we first must make up our _____ that we want to be different and change from being unstable and inconsistent to becoming _____ and dependable.
2. Without a made-up mind, nothing will ever _____ and we will just keep on being inconsistent and undependable and not much _____ to anyone.

B. Discipline:

1. A life without discipline is an inconsistent life, so in order to develop consistency, discipline is _____ and that takes desire plus _____ and that on a continual basis. I Cor. 9:27
2. A successful spiritual _____ is the result of spiritual disciplines that happen on a _____ basis with daily prayer, the reading of the _____ of God and going to the House of God.
3. When Simon Peter came to follow Jesus, he had a lot of _____ but was not consistent. However, the Jesus saw the potential in him and prophesied that he would become _____ one day. Jn. 1:42
4. Peter did _____ from being impulsive and inconsistent to become the powerful Apostle that led the move of God in the early _____.
5. Anyone can change from being inconsistent and unstable if they _____ to do so and apply themselves with discipline.

CONCLUSION: The kingdom of God needs people who are not only full of _____, but people who are dependable and consistent in their natural and spiritual _____.