Consistency

by Wayne Goff

DEFINITION*: "The achievement of a level of performance that does not vary greatly in quality over time."*

Much Desired Quality

Consistency is a character quality which everyone should desire. It is certainly something we desire in others! Some of the synonyms of the word include "regularity, evenness, steadiness, stability, dependability, reliability." Naturally, we are thinking of that which is *consistently* **good**. Let's consider the application of this quality.

Don't you think **elders** would love an entire congregation whose attendance was described as *"consistent"?* Everyone attended faithfully, always, and if anyone was missing, then something serious was wrong. It would make their jobs so much easier. The Bible commands such *consistency* in attendance, Hebrews 10:25.

How about a spouse whose emotional constitution is *consistent?* Who wouldn't love that?! There is nothing more nerve-racking than to have a spouse who is emotionally inconsistent. Up one day, and down the next. You never know what you are getting, and you never know what you are going to have to deal with. It is very difficult to live with on a regular basis. Those who have had such mates understand exactly what I'm saying. On a personal note, I can *honestly* say that my wife is one of the most *reliably consistent people* I know. It makes life with her so comfortable.

Interestingly, the Bible does not use the word *"consistency"* or *"consistent."* However, it does use a word repeatedly with that positive quality: *"faithful"* or *"faithfulness."* Note how wonderful God is because of this quality!

*"**God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord"* (1 Cor. 1:9).

*"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it"* (1 Cor. 10:13).

*"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might a merciful and **faithful High Priest** in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people"* (Heb. 2:17).

*"Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a **faithful Creator**"* (1 Pet. 4:19).

Faithful God - *faithful* High Priest - *faithful* Creator. Imagine, for a moment, a God Who is **not** faithful. What if you could not count on God's character or promises? What if Jesus was too busy to listen to your supplications and prayers? What if God was angry with the world one day and happy the next? What if His natural laws were active one day and inactive the next? The world would cease to exist. So faithfulness in that which is good is much desired.

Faithful Christians

The apostle Paul wrote the book of Ephesians *"to the saints who are in Ephesus, and **faithful** in Christ Jesus"* (Eph. 1:1). He wrote to Colosse and said: *"To the saints and **faithful brethren** in Christ who are in Colosse…"* (Col. 1:2). Peter said Silvanus was *"**our faithful brother**"* (1 Pet. 5:12). So it is possible to be a *faithful Christian*, and all of us should strive for that goal in our lives. Preachers, elders and deacons must all have a certain level of consistency. The church's well-being depends upon it. Don't you think a *consistent* membership would be a blessing, too?

Unfortunately, too often the word "few" is associated with *consistency*, as in "faithful few." I would love for God's people to be known as the *"faithful many"!* What a testimony that would be.

So now is *personal application* time. Can you and I say about ourselves "we are consistent" in a good sense? Answering that question can be a real eye-opener. Strive to be consistent.

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