Devotion #259

**Do You Fit In?**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NASB)** *“For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God*.”

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Winners never quit, and quitters never win.”? That was an often-expressed statement when I played high school basketball. I can remember many, many practices when the conditioning coach would yell that as we were running suicides over and over again. A suicide in basketball is when you stand at the baseline under the basket, and when the whistle blows you run to the first foul line, then back to the baseline, then to the half-court line, then back to the baseline, then to the foul line on the other end of the court, then back to the baseline, then to the baseline on the far end of the court, then back to the baseline where you started. That’s one. We did many of these at the end of each practice.

The coaches continually put into our heads as players that to be a great basketball player you can’t quit when things get tough. And from that continual message, it was put into our heads that to be someone in life, a respected or noticed person, you can’t quit. You just keep going, no matter what. That mindset continues into every other area of life. And you must strive to always be the best in everything - the smartest, the best dressed, etc. Anything else was to label you a failure in life.

Thankfully, the Lord doesn’t say that anywhere. Not that he doesn’t want us to keep going in our service to him; he certainly does. Paul told the church in Corinth, **2 Corinthians 4:1 (NASB)** *“Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart*.” He said to the Galatian churches, **Galatians 6:9 (NASB)**  *“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”* So, certainly we are to always put our best effort forward, especially when it comes to serving him. But God doesn’t require us to be the best in what we do in life or the most intelligent person in the crowd or best looking or the best in leadership, etc. In fact, just the opposite. God chooses those who are the least in the crowd, the most humble, the people who understand that they have nothing to offer the world. Again, that doesn’t mean we don’t work hard at whatever is in front of us and always do our best, but we are to rest in knowing that God does his work through the people who understand that if it were not for Jesus, they would be nothing and would accomplish nothing - nothing of lasting and eternal value.

So many people spend their entire lives trying to be the best, always trying to fit in. That’s really the motivation for why we push so hard. We are conditioned to believe that only the strong survive. Sadly, the world rewards that heavily, but to be the best in this life is not what God is looking for. What He is looking for are people who want to be the best followers of his Son - the ones who display the heart of Jesus the most.

So don’t be surprised if you never fit in. You were never meant to fit in. You don’t have to be the best at anything to be used greatly by God. I love what Paul said of himself and his plan for ministry. **1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NASB)** *“And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.”* If the greatest missionary/servant of God didn’t try to live his life impressing anyone but God, we should do the same. We are to relax, trust Christ, be humble, and trust God to use us as He sees fit.