

DEPENDABILITY

Dependability is a trait which all need to develop. By "dependability" we simply mean that one is "worthy of being depended on; trustworthy; reliable." Such integrity should characterize every Christian.

We should train our children to be dependable. We fail them if we do not teach them the importance of keeping their word, discharging responsibilities, being faithful to their duties, etc. If your son takes a paper route, you owe it to him to see that he faithfully discharges the responsibility he has accepted — even if he has to miss some ball games and other activities he enjoys. Your daughter needs to learn the importance of being reliable — that duties accepted must not be lightly tossed aside at her mere whim. If we expect them to become men and women of integrity we must train our children in the fundamental virtue of dependability.

Whatever we would have our children become we should strive to exhibit in our own lives. Yet, some give far more attention to being dependable in business, civic and social relationships than in their relationship to Christ. They are careful to be reliable in other matters, but careless in meeting their obligations as Christians.

In obeying the gospel you not only receive the remission of sins, but also accept certain obligations and responsibilities. You are not only "baptized into Christ," but you also "put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27) You are to "walk in newness of life." (Rom. 6:4) In "being then made free from sin" you became a "servant of righteousness." (Rom. 6:17,18) Are YOU a trustworthy servant?

You are careful to pay your bills on time and maintain a good "credit rating," but are you careful to fulfill your financial obligations to the Lord's work? Do you give as the Scriptures

teach — regularly, liberally and cheerfully as God has prospered you? (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6, 7)

You can be depended on to come to work on time, to be faithful and prompt in keeping your business and social appointments, etc. Are you as faithful as regards "assembling. . . together"? (Heb. 10:25) Can you be counted on to be present for the services of the church

Your employer can count on you to do your job — faithfully and well. Can you be depended on to do your work as a Christian? You lustily sing, "I want to be a worker for the Lord." Do you really mean it? Do you visit the sick and afflicted, minister to those in need, etc.? (Matt. 25:31-46; Jas. 1:27) Do you endeavor to teach others the truth — convert them to Christ? Are you "holding forth the word of life"? (Phil. 2:16) Do you seek to "restore" the unruly, comfort the faint hearted," etc.? (Gal. 6:1; 1Thess. 5:14)

The P.T.A., the Scouts, the civic club and other organizations can count on you to be an enthusiastic booster of their several undertakings, to work energetically and tirelessly in helping them reach their goals, "go over the top," etc. etc. But, can the congregation of which you are a member count on your enthusiasm and zeal — your energetic and tireless effort — in accomplishing its God-given work? (1 Cor. 15:58) Are the elders able to count on your cooperation and your help in accomplishing the scriptural undertakings they plan for the church? Can you be counted on to be anxious—and active—in helping the congregation accomplish the work it is capable of doing?

Honestly now, when it comes to the matter of being a Christian, are YOU dependable?

- - Paul C. Keller