

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Excellence In Quality

I. God is a God of excellence and He has called us to be a people of excellence

- A. God is a God of excellence-**Ps150:2**-Praise him according to his excellent greatness; **Ex15:7**-In the greatness of your excellency you have overthrown them that rose up against you
1. His name is excellent-**Ps148:13**-His name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and the Heaven
 2. He does excellent things-**Is12:5**-Sing unto the Lord; for he has done excellent things
 3. He is excellent in working-**Is28:29**-The Lord of hosts which is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working
 4. His loving kindness is excellent-**Ps36:7**-How excellent is your loving-kindness, O God
 5. He is excellent in power-**Jb37:23**-He is excellent in power, in judgment, and in plenty of justice
 6. He speaks excellent things-**Pr8:6-NET**-Listen, for I will speak excellent things
- B. What is excellence?-It refers to the quality of something (**Hb11:4**-More Excellent-Greater or superior in quality); When something is excellent it is exceptional, extraordinary, outstanding, superior, unusually good
1. High-Elevated, exalted (above others), preeminence (superior), extraordinary, dignity (elevated excellence)
 2. Great-Befitting greatness or magnificence, remarkable, good, famous/known because of its quality
 3. Majestic-Splendid (shining, illustrious, brilliant), brightness, glorious, beauty, grand
 4. Choice-Choicest, best, finery, elect, selected, preferable (because of quality)
 5. High quality-Valuable, prized, precious, rare, costly
 6. Opposite-Common, inferior, ordinary, unexceptional, second-class, second rate, poor, bad, unnoteworthy
- C. We are called to excellence-If the God we is a God of excellence then what kind of people should we be-**Ep5:1**-Be imitators of God
1. Daniel had an excellent spirit-**Dn6:3**-Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes because an excellent spirit was in him; **CEV**-So much better; **GN**-Outstanding; **MS**-Outclassed the others; **NIRV**-Unusually good; **Dn5:12-DRA**-Greater; **CJ**-Extraordinary
 2. We are called to glory and virtue-**2Pet1:3**-According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue.
 - a. Glory-(1) Brightness, splendor, magnificence (2) Dignity-Excellence (3) Honor-Valuable (4) Magnificence (exhibiting greatness) (5) Excellence (6) Preeminence; Virtue-Excellence
 3. We are chosen, royal, holy, purchased people-**1Pt2:9**-You are a chosen (choice, best of it's kind, excellent, preeminent) generation (stock, tribe, nation, family), a royal (kingly, regal) priesthood, an holy (sacred, uncommon) nation (people), a peculiar (purchased) people; that you should show forth (make known) the praises (excellence) of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous (extraordinary) light
 4. We should be an impressive people-**Dt7:14**-You shall be blessed above all people; **Pr12:26**-The righteous is more excellent than his neighbor; **Ps16:3-AC**-As for the godly (the saints) who are in the land, they are they excellent, the noble, and the glorious in whom is my delight
 5. God didn't call us to be substandard-We are not to be a second-rate, mediocre, ordinary, common, poor shoddy, people; We are supposed to shine in our character, shine in our service, shine in our resources, shine in our equipment – Average is as close to the bottom as it is the top

II. God likes high-quality

A. Does God like high quality or low quality?

1. What quality of Garden was this?-**Gn2:8**-*The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden (Pleasure, delicate-anything nice, fine; Live voluptuously, luxuriously and there he put the man whom he had formed*
2. What quality of tent was this?-**Ex38:24**-*All the gold that was occupied for the work in all the work of the holy place, even the gold of the offering, was 29 talents... And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation was 100 talents --- Approx 50 million to build a 15,000 square foot tent*
 - a. Who was inspiring to spend all these resources on this tent? **Ex25:40-NLT**-*Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain*
3. What quality of church building was this?-**1Ch22:14**-*I have prepared for the house of the Lord 100,000 talents of gold and 1 million talents of silver; and brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone I have prepared; that you may add to them; 1Ch29:4*-*Even 3,000 talents of gold, 7,000 talents of silver...7 And gave for the service of the house of God of god 5,000 talents, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of brass, 100,000 talents of iron --- If a talent is 60-75 pounds that puts this in the hundred of billions of dollars; If a talent weighed one pound, the gold itself is worth over 2 billion*
4. Why would God record this for us to have?-Why tell us how much it costs to build these things? He's showing you what He likes-Couldn't God have built something small and not as impressive?
 - a. Saving money is not as important to God as some have made it out to be; Couldn't He have built a tent for 45 million and saved 5 million? Being a good steward is not saving money, being a good steward is doing with the money what God told you to and people have projected their poverty mentality over onto the Lord and so they just assume God wants them to buy the cheapest thing they can find; You're thinking about money and God's thinking about quality

B. What kind of quality does God like His people to have?

1. The best of the land-**Is1:19-AMP**-*If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the best of the land; YLT-The good of the land ye consume*
2. The finest of the wheat-**Ps81:11,16**-*O that my people would hearken unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways...He should have fed them with the finest of the wheat*
3. The glory of all lands-**Ez20:6**-*In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands; TLB-The best of all lands anywhere; DRA-Which excels amongst all lands*
4. Why would God do this? Why not drab, dull, dingy and low quality?-He could made us average and more drab, but instead He made us shine-**Ez16:3-14**-³*Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite. ⁴ And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. ⁵ None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the loathing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. ⁶ And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live. ⁷ I have caused thee to multiply (become great) as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased (increase exceedingly, excel) and waxen great (make large in body, mind, estate, honor, exceed, excellent), and thou art come to excellent ornaments (excellent, excellent, adorn, finery): thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare. ⁸ Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. ⁹ Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. ¹⁰ I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk). ¹¹ I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. ¹² And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. ¹³ Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil (this is high quality clothes): and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. ¹⁴ And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness (excellency, magnificence, splendor, glory, honor), which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.*

C. When did God change-God hasn't changed and His plan and desire for His people hasn't change

NOTES

Excellence-H7682-Exalt, high; H117-Wide or generally large; Figuratively powerful: - excellent, famous, gallant, glorious, goodly, mighty, noble, principal, worthy; BDB-Great, majestic; H1348-Excellent things, lifting up, majesty; Ancient Hebrew-Someone elevated to a higher position; H1431-Advance, exceed, be great; H3368-Valuable (objectively or subjectively): - brightness, clear, costly, excellent, fat; BDB-Prized, weighty, precious, rare, glorious, splendid; H1347-Arrogancy, excellency (lent), majesty, pomp, pride, swelling; Thayer-Exaltation, majesty, excellence; H7689-Mighty, excellent, great; H977-Choose, elect, selected; Excellent, surpassing, preferable (Ex14:7-Chosen chariots, Pr10:20-Choice silver, Pr8:10-Choice gold)-Idea of selected because of their quality; H3493-Preeminent; adverbially very: - exceeding, excellent; BDB-Pre-eminent, surpassing, extraordinary-Dan5:12-Forasmuch as an excellent spirit...found in Daniel; 14 Excellent wisdom I found in thee; 6:3-Because an excellent spirit was in him; H7218-Chief, choicest, best-Ps141:5-It shall be an excellent oil; H8446-Ancient Hebrew-The outline of an individual (form, goodly, favored, comely, countenance); Abundance, riches; Profit: As abundance; plenteousness, preeminence; More-In the sense of abundance: more, better, over, excel-Pr12:26-the righteous is more excellent than His neighbor; H3499-Properly and overhanging, that is, (by implication) and excess, superiority, remainder, abundant, exceeding; Pr17:7-Excellent speech become not a fool; H7230-Abundance, greatness; H8597-Beauty, splendor, glory, finery (of garments, jewels); G1313-More excellent, surpassing (Hb1:4,8:6); G3169-Befitting greatness or magnificence (majestic) (2Pt1:17); W1828-Excellent-Being of great virtue or worth; Eminent or distinguished for what is amiable, valuable or laudable; as an excellent man or citizen; Being of great value or use, applied to things; remarkable for good properties; as excellent timber, farm, horse, fruit; Distinguished for superior attainments; as an excellent artist; Excellent Antonyms-Bad, common, inferior, ordinary, unexceptional, second-class, second rate, poor, unskilled, unnoteworthy

Glory-G1391-Doxa-Glory (as very apparent), dignity, honor, praise, worship; Thayer-A good opinion concerning one, resulting in praise, honor, and glory; Splendor, brightness; Magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace; Most glorious condition, most exalted state; From 1380-Dokeo-Be of reputation, seem good; W1828-Glory-Brightness, luster, splendor; Magnificence; Excellence; Splendor-Great brightness, brilliant luster, great show of richness and elegance; brilliance; Virtue-G703-Maniliness (valor), that is, excellence (intrinsic or attributed): - praise, virtue; W1828-Excellence; or that which constitutes value or merit