



CALLED TO EXCELLENCE

In reference to the biblical admonition to “be holy, for I am holy,”¹ I heard one person pose the rhetorical question: “Do you really think God would ever call us to do less?” In other words, can you imagine God commanding us to “be mediocre” in our activities or in areas of morality to “be fairly good – but a little sin is fine”? Of course not. Even as members of the fallen human race, our minds instinctively know that a perfect God wants nothing less than perfection for and from His creation. As the sun rises each morning and illuminates the entire earth, so this call to excellence shines on every part of our lives. God sovereignly lays claim to not only the industry of our hands, but also to the thoughts of our mind and the intents of our heart. In all we do, think, or say, we are called to excellence.

At this point, we must acknowledge the obvious tension between what ought to be and what really is. We are commanded, and in our right minds we sincerely desire, to fulfill the sovereign call to holiness and excellence in all things. However, our experience is that individually and collectively we often fail, and we often fail in quite miserable ways. This seems to give rise to at least two questions. If

God knew that this would be the reality of the world, then why would He issue such a command and high standard? Also, if our experience seems to confirm a consistent inability to achieve this high standard, why should we keep trying? I know that volumes could be written concerning good, valuable, and true responses to these questions. However, I will offer just two simple propositions in answer to these questions.

First, by challenging us to strive for excellence and perfection in our lives, our Creator wisely keeps our focus in the direction that will lead to our greatest fulfillment and joy. Through common experience, most of us can recall a time when even though we failed to reach a desired goal, the mere attempt made us better and stronger than we would have been had we never tried at all. It is not hard to imagine that in a similar way, God’s command of holiness and perfection benevolently works in our lives to help us develop in the right ways even when we find ourselves falling short of the ultimate mark.



FROM THE
Executive Director STEPHEN NOVOTNY

Second, in this life that is often full of sadness, failure, pain, evil, and disappointment, one could get lost in the gloom of the tragic human condition and despair that this is all that exists and that there is nothing better that we can look forward to. Through this seeming hopelessness, like a lightning bolt in the night, God’s command for holiness and excellence reminds us that there are other things – things that are high, beautiful, powerful and pure. Indeed, God’s command points us to our need to find the One who can forgive our failures, deliver us from where we are, and in the fullness of time bring us to where we ought to be. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”²

At Cypress Christian School, we affirm that all are called to excellence. We commit each day to reach for that high mark. We claim the promise that we are forgiven when we fail. We persevere despite our failures. And we believe that through Jesus Christ we will one day enjoy eternal life in heaven where all things will be restored and made right.



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¹Leviticus 11:44

²Phillippians 1:6