

WHAT DO OUTSIDERS SAY?

1 Timothy 3:7 (ESV)

If I was to ask someone who knows you outside of church “what kind of person you are” What would they say?
What would your boss say/landlord/coworkers/customers/business colleagues...

In the passage we are going to look at; Paul lays out for Timothy a list of what a Pastor looks like... In one of those items Paul says- He must be well thought of by OUTSIDERS-

1 Timothy 3:7 (ESV) Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

I SECULAR OR SPIRITUAL?

A- Sometimes men have a hard time with the idea that some things are secular, and some things are spiritual-

1. Often they isolate them as 2 totally separate areas of life-

- a. There is church, discipleship, prayer, SM, ministry, outreach, preaching, and pastoring
- b. Then there's work, bills, relationships, responsibilities, marriage, and LIFE

2. In their minds these have nothing to do with each other... one is spiritual and the other is secular

- a. One is important, and one is a distraction-

B- This is a mistake and a misunderstanding-

1. Both are important to God, and both are impacting each other!

- a. **V7** Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders...

2. Its not one over the other... its in harmony with...

- a. The things you think little of, or not very spiritual about, are actually more spiritual and vital than you realize
- i. **Col3:23** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men... UNTO THE LORD-

3. Everything we do in life MATTERS TO GOD... and Will have an effect on your spiritual life & calling!

- a. This was a revelation for me as a disciple... And I submitted to it! In marriage/parenting/work/money/talk

II FAILING WITH OUTSIDERS

A- So; When we misunderstand the Secular vs Spiritual approach... we will wind up failing with outsiders-

1. Because when you talk like Jesus, but then work like the devil...

- a. This will have negative outcomes-

2. **V7** that he may not fall into disgrace... Other translations say Reproach... Disapproval, Disappointment, Shame...

- a. People look at your life and think- That's how a christian acts/responds/lives/works?

- i. I don't want that... I don't like that... I don't value that...

- b. You think its persecution... really its disgraceful!

- i. You didn't keep your word/you didn't pay the bill/you didn't honor your commitment-

3. **V7** That he may not fall into a snare of the devil...

- a. A snare is a trap... or, so that you're not stuck in life-

- i. I have found that people who separate the secular from the spiritual are often stuck in life-

- ii Stuck in ministry, stuck in growth & development, stuck in fruitfulness, stuck in relationship...

4. Ultimately; People will not desire to have what you have!

III WHAT DO OUTSIDERS SAY?

A- This January marks 11 years since I left the ER... I was told a story about someone I worked with 11 years ago... and something they said about me-

1. I stopped trusting the Potter's House, but I trust Jesse Morales-

2. I had my old boss introduce me to nursing professionals as: The best ER tech in her entire career-

3. Rochester Apartment *in 2 days*: His credit will be good because he is a Pastor-

4. Doing Business for the Mens Rally: Hotel Manager asked about Waymen Mitchell & Greg Mitchell- *had good things to say-*

B- What would be said about you today, tomorrow, years from today?

1. If its not good... That can change today!

- a. Part of that is the revelation that the Spiritual and Secular are in harmony with one another-

2. If it is good... Then how do you maintain it?

- a. Decisions of Surrender to God... Seeing the bigger picture; What will this produce?