

What Are You Known For?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church
Proverbs 20:11. *Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.* The scriptures tell us that each of us is known for something. Some characteristic that people notice about us. Usually it will be the first thing that anyone will think of when we are mentioned. It may be a jolly attitude, a positive spirit, a sour disposition, or some other thing that dominates our personality.

Sad to say, but some Christians are known for things that are not good. I remember a story of one deacon who was critical of any and everything that wasn't his idea. The preacher was thinking of this as he called on the man to dismiss the congregation in prayer. Before he thought he said, "Brother, would you lead us in a word of criticism?" That may sound funny, but really it is not, it is a sad commentary on a person when that is their witness.

When you think about it we are all witnesses, for good or bad. If we live by God's word and do our best to keep the faith, we can be

a good witness. People watch those who say that they are Christians to see if they really practice what they profess. You may not know, or realize, just who is watching you. Sometimes a person may know of us, but we don't know them, still they look to see if our life is just talk. Even if no one were watching us, God is, at all times.

One man may be critical of others, always finding fault with them and what they do. This is not a good example, but one that hurts his witness. Once a church wanted to make some improvements to the church building. They waited until one of the officers went on vacation and did it while he was gone to avoid a debate. What kind of witness is it when a person is seen coming and people dread the drama that accompanies him? Perhaps those who do this feel the need to be in control and to draw attention to themselves. I don't think that that is a witness that most people would want to have.

Then there are those who are faithful, humble, and always trying to help others. I know of several people whom I am blessed by. They make me feel better, and encourage me with their cheerful attitude. This type of person helps and most of the time they probably don't even know the good that they do. We need more people

who are encouragers and helpers. Are we that kind of Christian ourselves? We should be confident in our faith and be praising the Lord. Stand on the word of God and exhort others to keep the faith.

In every congregation I'm sure that there are those whom you know that will gladly help in a task. Such a person will say, "I'll give it a try and do the best I can." This really encourages the preacher and helps ease the pressure on him. I have been in places where I led the singing, taught Sunday School, preached, and locked up when services were over. I'm sure that there are other ministers who have done the same, and maybe some are doing it now. If you can step up and help your pastor, as I have said, "It's not supposed to be a one man program."

When someone sees us coming they have a mental picture of how we are and will act. They will see us as faithful, cheerful, and someone that they are glad to see, or they will see us as someone who is just the opposite. It's really up to us, our witness can be good if we want it to be. Or, it can be negative if we don't really care of the image that we present to both the church and the world. Remember that "Christian" means Christ-like.

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 Established September 12, 1999