

Do All Things Well

Dale Carnegie was an American writer and teacher of courses in self-improvement, salesmanship, public speaking, and interpersonal skills. He is the author of *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, a bestseller that remains popular today. He also wrote *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*, *Lincoln the Unknown*, and several other books. In the book *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, Carnegie outlined how to cultivate a productive mental attitude. 1) Fill your mind with thoughts of peace, courage, health, and hope. 2) Never try to get even with your enemies. 3) Expect ingratitude. 4) Count your blessings, not your troubles. 5) Try to profit from your losses. 5) Create happiness for others. Carnegie's thoughts make one wonder if Bible principals (?) inspired his writings.

Mark writes of Jesus that, "He has done all things well" (Mark 7:37). It is impossible to think that Jesus would have ever been satisfied with just being adequate, or would have given Himself half-heartedly to anything that He did. Conversely, Jesus was willing to give everything, up to and including His life, to complete the will of the Father who sent Him. A spirit of excellence characterized everything He did. Through His life, Jesus set the standard we are to follow as Christians. Peter states, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow in His steps: Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth. Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:21-23).

Christians should strive for excellence in every area of life. Paul declares, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him... And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:17, 23). Regardless of where we find ourselves as Christians, or in what role; at home, at work, at the grocery store, or in the community, we should commit ourselves to doing all things well and heartily as to the Lord (Mark 7:37. Colossians 3:23).

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).