

**FALSE STANDARDS OF SUCCESS**

There are two success standards in the world today which are being followed by a vast majority of people. And the interesting thing is that only a select few will ever reach the top of these standards to claim the success that is offered. These standards are also very unbiblical and should be rejected on those grounds.

The two measures that the world uses to show success is that of money and intelligence. A combination of these or to have one and not the other is supposed to show worth, value, and success in life.

Money, by itself is worthless. It, is printed paper or various kinds of metals melted and stamped. Money itself has no real value, its value comes in what it can purchase. We strive to make money so that we can have many things. It is the things that we are really after, not the money. Materialism is a very destructive attitude because it will never be satisfied. If we received great amounts of money to satisfy our longings for physical things, we shall only be temporarily satisfied because physical things do not last. As our possessions begin to grow old, the spirit of materialism causes us to look at other things we don't have, and the same cycle starts all over again. The only way to end it is to purchase things which are eternal (this is the receiving blessings from Christ). See Matthew 6:33.

Intelligence is another false standard of success. Because we live in a fast changing world with computers, lasers, jets, and calculators we think that to be a success or even survive takes a great deal of "smarts." So we drill our children in all of their school work, push for higher grades, try to make them over-achievers, and all for what? Children are born with a certain level of intelligence, and to push them to higher limits than they are capable of will only make them frustrated, nervous, and have a low self-esteem--thus feel like failures. The key to happiness through intelligence is not by forcing the child to be someone they are not, but in allowing the child to work up to and realize their own potential. It makes no difference as to the amount of inborn intelligence a person has, so long as they are confident within themselves and that confidence comes from knowing they can succeed by doing the best they can.

What good does it do someone to be a millionaire and have a Ph.D., if that person can't, get, along with their spouse, the kids up to be juvenile delinquents, and he doesn't have any friends that can match him on the economic and mental scales? By attaining the so-called levels of success (money and brains) the individuals has become a social misfit who is really no good to anyone!

The real keys to life and having success in what one does is in having a Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) by being a Christian. Happiness then comes from knowing you are right with God, freed from sin, and can learn to become all you can be. Do not be deceived with the false success standards of money and intelligence. True happiness comes from a pure and sinless life.