

## EVERYBODY'S DOING IT

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“Right is right when nobody’s doing it, wrong is wrong if everybody’s doing it.” This is a quote from a person I’ve looked up to most in my life. He was my pastor. His name was Pastor Lilly. He taught me to do what is right when no one else is doing right. He taught me not to do wrong even if everyone else is doing wrong. A key factor in doing this was summed up in what he said about “keeping your eyes off of people” and looking up to Jesus instead. If we look up to people, they may fail us, but if we look up to Jesus, He will NEVER fail us. Peer pressure is a big problem in today’s society. It is considered “cool” to disrespect your parents and authority today. Kids are afraid to do what’s right because of what other kids will think. In reality, it’s really what God thinks that matters. God judges us by WHAT we are, not WHO we are. Many people judge us by our appearance and our abilities, talents and skills. I am loved and special because God made me. I am validated by Him, therefore I don’t need to worry what others think when I do what is right.

I admire Pastor Lilly because he was compassionate. He was there for others before they could ask for help. Once, when our car was broken down, he was at our house fixing it before we knew he was there. We needed a barn built, and before we could ask, he was at our house ready for work. He preached love and lived it by example. Because of his example, my brothers and I have tried to practice by mowing and doing odd jobs for a widow. When her husband died, many people said they would help her, but most people didn’t do what they said.

Pastor Lilly taught us to be accountable for ourselves. He lived what he preached. He didn’t say one thing and do another. He was the same behind closed doors as he was in public. He always said, to “walk your talk.”

Another value he taught me was unity. We should work together like a military brigade. When your buddy is down in battle, jump in and cover for him. What this means is, when someone else is in need of our help financially, physically, or emotionally, be there to help. Sometimes my family has seen people in need and we have taken them food. When we have seen kids without Christmas, we have helped them.

However, I’d say the most important value Pastor Lilly taught me is integrity. He taught us to keep our word and not to make promises lightly. Have you ever heard the saying “a man is only as good as his word?” One hundred years ago, when someone gave their word, they kept their promise. Today, people have to sign a contract because people don’t keep their word. He taught us to be prompt and to be honest.

Have you read the Biblical adage “Love your enemies and do good to those who spitefully use you?” The most impressive memory I have of Pastor Lilly is how he behaved when being treated wrong by others. I heard someone wrongfully accuse him and try to publically humiliate him He never gave an answer in his defense. He just bowed his head and prayed. Then, he repaid that individual with a double portion of good deeds. Now, that’s INTEGRITY! And, wouldn’t we all also say that took a lot of SELF CONTROL? The interesting thing about all this is that all these concepts are found in the Bible!

All these values: withstanding peer pressure, compassion, accountability, unity, self control and integrity can be summed up by one GOLDEN RULE from the Bible. This rule states “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” In other words, treat others as you want them to treat you. Sounds pretty simple-doesn't it?