

Paul's Ponderings

Consistency is an important topic. Many people grow up in homes where there is none. Some may even work in an inconsistent environment. A lack of consistency creates stress and anxiety.

In psychology, consistency is the congruence of a person's values, beliefs, and behaviors. In a biblical context, consistency refers to being dependable and faithful in one's actions, beliefs, and commitments, emphasizing the unchanging nature of God and the importance of steadfastness in faith and service.

Paul Stasi
Executive Director

Here's a more detailed look at the concept of consistency in the Bible:

CONSISTENCY

- 1. God's Consistency:** We see consistency in His character, plans, and promises. For me, the key verse on this topic is Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever". An Old Testament verse is Malachi 3:6 states, "For I, the Lord, do not change." Consistency is seen in God's unchanging nature, His faithfulness to His covenant people, and His eternal plan of redemption.
- 2. Consistency in Faith:** We are encouraged, as believers, to be consistent in our faith, service, and witness. For example, Philippians 1:27 says, "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."
- 3. Consistency in Action:** The Bible emphasizes the importance of consistent behavior in accordance with Christian teachings. This includes being persistent in prayer, persevering through trials, and demonstrating unwavering love. 1 Corinthians 15:58 urges us to be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

Examples of Consistency in the Bible:

- Daniel's consistent prayer life. Even when faced with a decree against it, demonstrates his steadfast faith and obedience.
- And, Jesus' consistent demonstration of God's love and compassion, even in the face of opposition, exemplifies the importance of consistency in character.
- Consistency in faith and actions leads to a closer relationship with God. It fosters spiritual growth and maturity. It strengthens one's character and builds a life rooted in faith, prayer, perseverance, and love.

At CRM, we also show consistency to those who come here for help. I believe that as we demonstrate this, we are living the gospel. It is only through your faithful giving that our work is possible. Thank you and God bless you.

Ral

The Most Important Gift You'll Leave Your Loved Ones

Kyle Martin was thrilled to be named valedictorian of his graduation class. But, as he shares in his viral graduation speech, achieving that title came at the expense of relationships in his life. "A lesson learned should be a lesson shared: Nothing is more important than your healthy relationships."

How will you share your life lessons with your loved ones? One approach is to create a Legacy Love Letter. It documents hard-won wisdom, beliefs you want your loved ones to know, and even funny stories from your childhood. Use the following prompts to get started:

What do you believe? What principles guide you when it comes to marriage, children, serving others, stewarding finances, etc.?

What have you learned? Include stories about life-defining moments and what you learned from them.

What do your loved ones need to know? Let your loved ones know about the difference they've made in your life. Make apologies and amends where they're needed.

What really matters? Share Scripture that has been especially meaningful to you.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "A Lesson Learned Should Be a Lesson Shared" by contacting Angela A. Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org - Visit crmjax.legacywill.org to bless your family with an up-to-date will.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- (3) Full size mattress and boxspring set \$1,000 each
- (38) Blinds \$75 each
- (2) Hally Stainless Steel tables for prep 30"x48" \$162 each
- Adopt a dorm room
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for Thrift Store
- Volunteers in reading, math, and English to help our students

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New Life NEWS

MAY 2025



Shantakia YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE

As a young teenager, Shantakia lost three of the people closest to her... her mother, father and brother. Engulfed in grief, she eventually spiraled into substance abuse, then experienced homelessness. Longing to do better for her own children, she knew she couldn't change on her own. Today, she's been healed by God's love and a supportive community that has helped her turn her life around. She's looking forward to giving back and sharing hope with others through her story – made possible by gifts from friends like you.

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SHANTAKIA'S STORY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE

Shantakia experienced unimaginable loss at the vulnerable young age of 13 when her mother passed away. Two years later, she lost her brother too. Then her father died. Consumed by loneliness and grief, despair followed her into adulthood and prevented her from becoming the woman she knew she could be. Then she came to the Mission.

The trauma from Shantakia's teenage years wreaked havoc as she grew older. Without proper tools to process her grief, she allowed substance abuse to provide temporary relief from her pain and despair. But that misguided solution led to dependency and homelessness – and ultimately drew Shantakia away from her family and loved ones. While no stranger to sorrow and sadness, being separated from her children was the greatest heartache she'd ever known.

"I realized that I wasn't being the mother that I was supposed to be."

Her love for her sons became her motivation to finally change her life, but she knew she couldn't do it alone. At the recommendation of her aunt, a graduate of our LifeBuilders program, Shantakia came to the Mission and laid her burdens at our door.

Changing your heart and building a better future doesn't happen overnight. It requires months of guidance and coursework, along with a loving support system and a strong faith in the Lord – and Shantakia found all of these at the Mission.



"There are a lot of people out there who really need help, and this is a good place for them. It gets them off the streets... back to their families."

In our holistic long-term program, she is studying God's Word and letting His love heal her grief. She's replacing destructive habits with healthy behaviors. And through life-skills classes, adult education, workforce development and more, she's preparing to lead a stable life.

Just as critical to her success, Shantakia shares, is the sense of community she's embraced here.

"It's truly humbling how the staff and volunteers take time away from their own families to help people like me... how these people who don't know me could love me and care for me."

The other women in our LifeBuilders Program have been a huge support system for Shantakia as well, providing comfort, friendship – and when she gets discouraged – encouragement to keep her eyes on the bigger picture.

"They tell me, 'When you leave here, you're going to be an even better mom to your sons.'"

Today, with her journey of transformation nearly complete, Shantakia has strengthened her relationship with God, found freedom from substance abuse and feels confident in her ability to be

a stable and contributing member of the community. Finally and most importantly, she's becoming the mother she was always meant to be.

"The Mission helped me see that I am more than just a recovering addict."

After graduation, Shantakia plans to maintain the close relationships she built here. She's looking forward to reuniting with her sons and finding a good job – possibly owning her own cleaning business – so she can provide for them.

She's grateful for the new life you've made possible through your gifts and prayers.

Prayer & Praise

- ◇ *Pray* for the men, women, and children in our programs.
- ◇ *Pray* for our staff and their families.
- ◇ *Pray* for resources and finances.
- ◇ *Praise* God we are changing lives.
- ◇ *Praise* God for all those who support CRM with time, talent, and treasure.
- ◇ *Praise* God that all his promises are true.



CRM
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17th Annual Champions Challenge Golf Tournament TPC SAWGRASS AUGUST 25, 2025

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VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

We love our volunteers!

