

Adult Bible Studies

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Submit to God in Christ Philippians 1:12-21

Fred Vautour says, “You live for your kids, so they could have a better life than I had.” Fred works as an overnight janitor at Boston College, which waives tuition for children of employees. All five of Fred’s children attended and graduated from Boston College for free—“nearly \$700,000 worth of free tuition.” His daughter Amy says, “He really opened the opportunity for us.” Fred cleaned bathrooms, mopped floors, vacuumed carpets, and dusted desks, all so he could provide his children with a college education.¹

In today’s lesson, the student book author writes, “We are not seeking unbalanced lives but lives that are marked by faithfulness to the commitments we have made and devotion to Christ that is expressed in faithful living each day.”² We make and live up to commitments every day to schools, employers, family members, fellow citizens, and even the government. As believers, we express our commitment to Christ each day through our faithful living—prayer, service, study, quiet time, how we treat others, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Vautour marks his life with faithfulness to the commitment he made to his employer and to his children. Each day he expresses his love for his family through his work. The commitments in our lives sometimes crowd out our devotion to Jesus Christ. May we find ways to incorporate our love for Christ into our daily activities, much like Fred Vautour found a way to incorporate his love for his children into his daily work.

1. In what ways is your life balanced and unbalanced? How do you balance spiritual disciplines with other commitments in your life?
2. How do you express love for someone through your daily commitments? In what ways do your daily commitments crowd out your devotion to Jesus Christ?
3. How have you found a way to incorporate your love for Jesus Christ into your daily activities? When have you seen such a balance of devotion and commitment in someone else’s walk of faith?

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¹From “Clean Sweep: Janitor Sends Five Kids to College for Free,” by Steve Hartman, CBS News (cbsnews.com/news/boston-college-janitor-sends-all-five-kids-to-college-for-free/).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2018-2019, by Stan Purdum (Cokesbury, 2018); page 58.

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