HEALING THE CULTURE

Four Levels of Success

Success means different things to different people. How we define success is significant, because it points out what we think is most important in life.

Nobody goes through life trying to lose – we are all trying to succeed (to live our lives the best possible way). The way we define success will shape our goals and our attitudes.

An unhealthy culture defines success as having more and being more than others. A healthy culture defines success as doing good for others, making a contribution to family, friends, community, and world, and growing in faith.

How do YOU define success?

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Success Level 1

Having pleasures and possessions

Level 1 Success is defined as having nice things and living comfortably. If we live only for Level 1, we will start to think that success means having more - and end up thinking that anybody who is poor or disadvantaged cannot be successful. We will overlook some of the most important things in life, like family, friendship, community, and faith.

Success Level 2

Being admired, powerful, a winner

Level 2 success is seen as winning, control, power, achievement, and popularity. If we live only for Level 2, we will believe that success is measured by where we stand compared to everyone else. We will miss opportunities to make a difference in the world and to do good for others.

Success Level 3

Loving others and doing good in the world

When we seek Level 3 success -- working for the good of others -- relationships are strengthened, character built, and priorities set straight. We can cooperate with one another, and rejoice in the good that others accomplish. Still, Level 3 success must be directed toward Level 4 or else we may think we can do it all ourselves, over-emphasize our accomplishments, and fall back into a Level 2 attitude, leaving behind humility, gentleness, kindness, and compassion.

Success Level 4

Faith in God's Unconditional Love

Level 4 success lets us understand that God intends good for the whole world, and that He's the only one who can follow through on that promise. Our success comes from following Him. The more we surrender to Him, the more successful we are. Even when we fail, we trust that He is able to make good come out of it.