

**Reading:** Ephesians 4:11-16

**Topic:** Consistency

**INTRODUCTION:** One of the major challenges facing our world \_\_\_\_\_ is the widespread plague of instability and inconsistency in \_\_\_\_\_ who are in every facet of life.

## I. GOD'S CONSISTENCY:

### *A. In His Person:*

1. One thing is clear from reading the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and that is that God is consistent and unchangeable in His ways and in His \_\_\_\_\_. Mal. 3:6
2. Whether it is the Lord Jehovah of the Old Testament or \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament, the Lord is the same every \_\_\_\_\_ and always. Heb. 13:8

### *B. In His Creation:*

1. The Lord set in motion a pattern of consistency in \_\_\_\_\_ and we witness it every day and every year as the seasons \_\_\_\_\_ and go. Gen. 1:14-16
2. The Creator reinforced the pattern of consistency after the \_\_\_\_\_ of Noah's time, and again we witness that consistent pattern that is still in \_\_\_\_\_ until today. Gen. 8:22

## II. MAN'S INCONSISTENCY:

### *A. Many Examples:*

1. The Word of God gives an array of displays of inconsistency of \_\_\_\_\_ beings, who are created in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, but since the fall of man into sin, are plagued with instability. Job 14:1
2. An entire group of people that we know as the children of \_\_\_\_\_ were examples of the traits of inconsistency and we are encouraged in the Word of God not to \_\_\_\_\_ their examples. I Cor. 10:1- 6, 11

### *B. Individuals:*

1. When Jacob called his sons to his bedside as he lay \_\_\_\_\_, his pronouncements about them revealed their character traits and how that would affect their \_\_\_\_\_ as well as the present. Gn. 49:3,4
2. Reuben, who should have been the pride and joy of his father and the successor to \_\_\_\_\_ on the family name, instead had developed a behavior that left him \_\_\_\_\_ and undependable.
3. The Word of God states that an inconsistent or \_\_\_\_\_ individual is a hindrance to progress and growth. Pr. 25:19

## III. SOURCES OF INCONSISTENCY:

### *A. Family Situations:*

1. One of the greatest builders of inconsistency in the \_\_\_\_\_ of an individual is a poor family situation, which may be: 1. A home without a good \_\_\_\_\_ figure 2. Alcoholism or drug \_\_\_\_\_ in the family 3. Constant bickering and fighting between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Pr. 14:1
2. When children grow up in an unstable \_\_\_\_\_ environment, it is very likely that patterns of incon-

sistency will be developed in them because of the examples their parents are setting in \_\_\_\_\_ of them.

**B. Personal Choices:**

1. Another major factor in developing into an inconsistent and unstable \_\_\_\_\_ is the choices that one makes when they get into their teen-age \_\_\_\_\_ and beyond.
2. If one comes from a stable \_\_\_\_\_ environment but chooses to hang out with friends and people that are unstable and inconsistent, unfortunately they will become \_\_\_\_\_ them. Pr. 4:14

**IV. CHANGING TO BECOME CONSISTENT:**

**A. Making the Decision:**

1. In order to change anything in our lives, we first must make up our \_\_\_\_\_ that we want to be different and change from being unstable and inconsistent to becoming \_\_\_\_\_ and dependable.
2. Without a made-up mind, nothing will ever \_\_\_\_\_ and we will just keep on being inconsistent and undependable and not much \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone.

**B. Discipline:**

1. A life without discipline is an inconsistent life, so in order to develop consistency, discipline is \_\_\_\_\_ and that takes desire plus \_\_\_\_\_ and that on a continual basis. I Cor. 9:27
2. A successful spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ is the result of spiritual disciplines that happen on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis with daily prayer, the reading of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and going to the House of God.
3. When Simon Peter came to follow Jesus, he had a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ but was not consistent. However, the Jesus saw the potential in him and prophesied that he would become \_\_\_\_\_ one day. Jn. 1:42
4. Peter did \_\_\_\_\_ from being impulsive and inconsistent to become the powerful Apostle that led the move of God in the early \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Anyone can change from being inconsistent and unstable if they \_\_\_\_\_ to do so and apply themselves with discipline.

**CONCLUSION:** The kingdom of God needs people who are not only full of \_\_\_\_\_, but people who are dependable and consistent in their natural and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.