

# NOTES *at the* DOOR



## WEEK 4 | DEVOTIONAL PURSUE EXCELLENCE

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### REFLECT

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1. Name an idea from the message that caught your attention. Why?

**Pastor Dan invited us to consider these points:**

2. Pursue Quality for the Purpose of Exalting God & Engaging People

Reflect | Excellence in all areas of life—work, relationships, following Jesus—is a reflection of God’s excellence. When we aim for quality, it’s not for self-glory but to glorify God and draw others to Him. Excellence invites engagement, curiosity and connection.

Read | **Colossians 3:23–24** *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Read | **Matthew 5:16** *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Share | How can you shift your mindset to see your work as worship to God? What goes through your mind and heart knowing that when you do what you do well - with excellence - God is glorified? What hinders your light from shining? How bright has your light been shining lately? Where have you been settling for “good enough”? Do you know why?

3. Recognize That God’s Excellence is Different from the World’s

Reflect | Excellence in God’s eyes often looks different than worldly standards. Love your enemies, bless those that curse you, forgive those that have hurt you. Hold the tensions of living for God’s Kingdom while navigating life in this world.

Read | **Isaiah 55:8–9** *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

Read | **1 Corinthians 1:27–29** *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.*

Share | How does God's definition of excellence challenge what we find worldly perspectives? What "tensions" do you experience in trying to pursue excellence for God in a world that measures success differently?

#### 4. Above All, Make Love Supreme

Reflect | Excellence without love is empty, but excellence motivated by love transforms lives and brings glory to God.

Read | **1 Corinthians 13:1–3, 13** *If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

Read | **John 13:34–35** *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.*

Share | How does love redefine what it means to pursue excellence? Why did Jesus desire others would know we are His disciples? Really let that sink in—what response, emotion, action, questions does that draw out from you?

#### 5. The Final Apologetic | Life-Changing Love

Reflect | The early church demonstrated a love so powerful that it changed the world.

Read | **1 John 4:7–8** *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

Share | Francis Schaeffer observed, "The love of Christians is the final apologetic." Do you agree or disagree? How can you demonstrate life changing love in your sphere of influence? Be very practical by giving concrete examples.

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## RESPOND

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Pray, Reflect and Journal | Identify one area of your life where you can reflect God's excellence more fully. Commit to one act of love this week that demonstrates God's heart to someone in your life then journal about their response and how God is using it in your life.