

# A Mark of Professionalism

A husband and wife rose early one Sunday morning. They had breakfast, and then the wife retired to the bedroom to dress for church.

As the time was approaching when they needed to leave for the morning service, she noticed her husband hadn't made any move toward getting dressed.

She asked, "Why aren't you getting dressed for church?"

He answered, "Cause I don't want to go."



She asked, "Do you have any good reasons?"

He said, "Yes, I have three good reasons."

"And they are?" she asked.

"First, the congregation is cold. Second, no one likes me. And third, I just don't want to go this morning."

The wife replied with wisdom. "Well, honey, I have three reasons why you should go."

"Convince me," he said.

"First, the congregation is warm. Second, there are a few people there who like you. And third, you're the pastor. So get dressed!"

We can chuckle at the story. And very likely, there are times when the pastor of a church would prefer to stay home when the time for worship at church came.

But this story has application for more than pastors.

Nobody likes doing what is right and good *all* the time. We each have moments – whether through fatigue, illness or some personal distraction – when we would rather give a half-hearted effort or yield to temptation.

The mark of professionalism, however, is in facing down what you don't want to do by doing it anyway.

*To win the contest you must deny yourselves many things that would keep you from doing your best* (1 Corinthians 9:25 TLB).