

A difference to which many would consider going to the other extreme. I ~~have~~ heard a man who was a professor in a large, conservative evangelical seminary say not recently(?) he said, In our schools we have some of the brightest people in America. He said the standard of intelligence in our school is 10 points above that of those students entering law schools, and 8 points above that of students entering medical school. But he said we have hundreds of graduates who come out and they are no good for Jesus Christ or for (indistinct)? I confess I was shocked to hear the man say that about a school in which he was a professor.

But he went on to say that the reason was that these people had been so cowed by their parents and their teachers that they had ~~no confidence~~ confidence in their abilities and were not ready to step out and do something for God, but wanted to simply wait until somebody comes and gives them a job, gives them something to do and promises them support for it! He spoke in very extreme terms but I fear that in the case of all of us, great as is the danger of our giving into pride which can wreck our lives, there is also of our thinking of ourselves and our possibilities less than we should and not achieving the results we should.

It is silly to see the average person in school if he's really competitive at all as most are, to see how wonderful he feels when he's proven to be a little better than this or one. How terrible he feels when the other one gets ahead of him! And you know if we were to take all the people in the U.S.A. and we were to arrange them in a line according to their physical strength from the poorest to the strongest, if we were to arrange them in intellectual order from the poorest to the strongest; if we were to arrange them in good appearance, in ability to express themselves, in any one of many different lines from the poorest in the country to the most effective, every one of those probably would come somewhere between 60 and 70%. We would probably all be in that category.

And most of us will probably never be in the 90% class and most of us never have the fear that we might be in the 40% class. But in that particular class where we are there are hundreds, perhaps thousands who are very near in any one of these lines to each one of us. Yet how anxious we are to be a little bit better than the one we're next to! How afraid we are to be a little bit poorer than the one we're next to! How afraid we are to step out for Christ and accomplish what we could for him because we underestimate our abilities and we're afraid people will think we are pushing ourselves in the way we should not.

The balance here is not easy to get, but it is a balance that is very important and is worth working at. Christ wants us to think of ourselves who it does not matter whether people think highly of us or think little of us. Whether they consider us great and able or whether they consider us as not worth stepping on! He does not want us to be concerned about these things. But he wants us to be tremendously concerned about stepping out and accomplishing the utmost we can with the abilities he's given us, and there's no