

Serve With Purity: Model a Joyful Life

Sadie Robertson hails from the *Duck Dynasty* family. Her grandpa Phil's book *Happy, Happy, Happy* describes the joy that Jesus brought after alcohol nearly destroyed him. Sadie stepped out at 17 when she appeared on *Dancing With the Stars* where she was both applauded and mocked for her modesty. In an interview with ABC, she said, "I'm a Christian. It comes with me everywhere I go." Sadie attributes the joy in her family to their love for God and each other.

Four Principles for Serving Others:

1. Be _____(Respectful)

- a. *"Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate." Titus 3:1-2a.* To be considerate is having a "sweet reasonableness, an attitude that gives others the benefit of the doubt."
- b. "When I was in junior high school, I learned a song called *Garbage In, Garbage Out*...what you think about will come out in your life" (Sadie Robertson). This is especially true in our thoughts toward others. God wants us to be *"full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14), just like Jesus. We are to follow *"in his steps"* (1 Peter 2:21).

2. Be _____(Humble)

- a. *"Show true humility toward all men. At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another." Titus 3: 2b-3.* A life of hurry and stress often leads to rudeness toward others.
- b. *"Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29.* True humility starts with slowing down, being sensitive to people, really listening, and treating others with gentleness. Learn to laugh, especially at yourself!

3. Be _____(Gracious)

- a. *"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that...we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:4-7.*
- b. The world around us constantly sends the message that you can do life without Jesus. Jesus is optional. You don't need him to be successful, happy, and fulfilled. But the Bible teaches that a respect for God is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).

- c. Our intrinsic value comes from God, not people. In *Live Fearless*, Sadie Robertson describes her battle with anorexia due to finding her worth from people complimenting her. “The day I prayed for the Lord to enlighten my eyes to see His standard of beauty is the day my whole life changed.”
- d. If you unexpectedly inherited \$100 million, you would likely be inclined to be more generous and gracious in how you deal with others. As heirs of heaven, we should be no less inclined to serve others with a gracious heart!

4. Be _____ (Helpful)

- a. *“This is a trustworthy saying. And I want to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.” Titus 3:8.* We are not called to condemn or shame or insult or gossip about others. Nor are we called to change or reform them. Rather, we are called to serve them!
- b. When we bless others, we ask for God’s favor to be on them. As God draws them nearer to His light, their need for forgiveness and cleansing will become obvious. *“Woe is me! I am ruined! I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips.” Isaiah 6:5.*

Sadie Robertson is no stranger to taking a risk. Last October, she flew to Somalia with her mom, delivering food to thousands after a nasty drought. When she was gripped by a panic attack, she found strength in claiming the promises of Psalm 91. God’s peace soon enveloped her room. Only an hour after the plane departed for home, the city where they stayed was rocked by a bomb that claimed the lives of 500.

Back home, Sadie has never been afraid to swim upstream against the tidal wave of the world. Like Chris Pratt, Jordin Sparks, and Tim Tebow, she champions the benefits of sexual purity before marriage. She models purity and joy as she serves others. Are you ready to follow her example?