

Someone has said, “We are what we are at home.” Think about that! Which most accurately describes the person we really are? The person we are in *public* – where often we put our best foot forward, or where we put on a mask, a public persona? Or, the person we are *behind the scenes, around the house* – where we’re least likely to pretend or try to impress? I think there is a lot of truth in the statement, “We are what we are at home.”

Isn’t it true that we can be so nice to people on the outside and so miserable to those in our own families. Teenagers who are so delightful with their friends but so hateful and uncooperative with their parents. Husband and wives who are so good natured with their friends at work or within their social circles, but so unkind and grumpy to their spouse. Sometimes we act the worst with those who love us the most.

Of course, home ought to be a place where we can be ourselves, where we don’t have to pretend. We all need a place where we can unwind and just be ourselves. But that’s no license to be selfish or shabby in how we treat those in our own family.

Psalm 101, verse 2 in the Old Testament says, “I will walk with integrity of heart within my house” (Psalm 101:2). *The Message* version puts it this way: “I’m doing the very best I can, and I’m doing it at home, where it counts.” Now that’s a worthy goal – to live with integrity at home and do the best we can to be the best we can within our family circle.

Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, was the keynote speaker a few years back at our United Methodist Annual Conference when it was held in Lancaster. He talked about leaders needing to have integrity (whether they are a pastor, or a leader in the church). He said one of the greatest compliments he heard given a pastor he knew was when someone said of him, “Those who know him the best respect him the most.” Isn’t it a great thing if those who know us the best – our family members – respect us the most because we live with integrity in our home, as well as in public.

*Motto for the day: With God’s help, I will do the best I can to be the best I can for my own family.*

- Pastor Harry