

Dancing With Class & Living With Restraint

Dancing With the Stars crowned their season champion this week. I don't always watch the show intently but this season there was a refreshingly sweet contestant on the show: 17 year old Sadie Robertson (of the Robertson family, stars of the Duck Dynasty TV program).



Dancing With the Stars pairs a celebrity with a professional dancer, trying to win high scores from a panel of judges and votes from a national television audience. Some of the dance routines and costumes are very suggestive and leave little to the imagination. Typically, the more extreme the performance is the higher the score.

Then along comes a 17-year old girl from a strong faith-based family, whose every action on the show reflected her Christian beliefs. Her parents attended every show and had to approve of every outfit worn by Sadie. She respected their wishes as she competed in the 10-week nationally televised contest. Dance routines choreographed by Sadie's professional dance partner weren't suggestive, but instead were tastefully done. They featured her youth, enthusiasm and wholesomeness with performances such the finals night "freestyle" dance, when the dance characterized a Super Mario video game. Clips of rehearsals showed her correcting the occasional bad language of her dance partner, and praying with him before going on stage. By all accounts Sadie is the epitome of a wholesome person, on and off stage. We don't need to cast a bronze statue on a pedestal in her honor – instead she respectfully honored her Lord and Savior.

How do you act when there is a lot riding on the results of your actions? And, what about when the spotlights are off and the camera is not rolling? Do you live 24/7 the values you were taught growing up, or do "you let your hair down" from time to time? Do you show restraint and consistency in being the person God created you to be? Even more important is your relationship with others: can your faith-based behavior be a positive influence on someone else? *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).*



Once you establish a Christian image many people are waiting for you to fall. Others attempt to justify their own imperfections if people of faith slip up. The fact is no one is perfect this side of heaven. That is why Jesus came to earth, for the forgiveness of sins. In television interviews Sadie was quick to give credit and thanks to God. She did her best to model the life Jesus would like her to live. Perhaps others will follow her example and do the same.

I admire a person who can maintain their values 24/7 and make an effort to live according to Christian principles. Sadie didn't win the "mirrorball" trophy, finishing second. But, she was an example for all America to appreciate. At times we all look in the mirror. Hopefully, we will like what we see.

Question: How does the way you live your life reflect your Christian values?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. You give us opportunities to model a Christian way of life, not only to do the right thing, but for others to see that faith makes a difference. Give us the strength to withstand temptations and to stay true to our faith.