

ONGOING RENEWAL

#7 - Sharpen the Saw: Principles of Balanced Self-Renewal

- Balance of Prayer and Work in daily life:
All work and no prayer leads to loss of perspective.
- Leading a Sacramental Lifestyle:
Our ongoing connection with Christ grounds us in reality.

In 1989, Stephen Covey wrote “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.” But, in 2004, he wrote “The Eighth Habit: from Effectiveness to Greatness.” There are spiritual and religious implications for this eighth habit as well:

#8 – From Effectiveness to Greatness: Find your Voice and Inspire Others to Find Theirs

- Once you have discovered Christ, start following Christ!
- When you are following Christ, introduce others to Christ!

- Our first vocation is the call to holiness of life.
- Our second vocation is the call to evangelize.

- Our starting focus is on becoming saints in heaven.
- Our ongoing focus is on helping others get to heaven too.

The ChristLife course at Saint Dennis Church is designed to lead you into an effective Catholic Christian lifestyle that will bring you into the greatness of the Kingdom of God as a saint. Please check out www.Saint-Dennis.org for more information about the ChristLife Course for the New Evangelization.

THE SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANS

Stephen Covey wrote “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” in 1989. Here is a summary of the seven common sense habits of effectiveness about which he wrote, and by which he lived his own personal and professional lifestyle:

1. **Be Proactive**
2. **Begin with the End in Mind**
3. **Put First Things First**
4. **Think Win-Win**
5. **Seek First to Understand, then to Be Understood**
6. **Synergize**
7. **Sharpen the Saw**

The themes of these seven habits have spiritual and religious implications, especially due the fact that Covey promoted character development instead of business technique as his formula for success both in work and in daily life.

As Thomas Aquinas appropriately used many of the insights of the Greek philosopher Aristotle in his development of theology, let us see what we can discover about our faith practice through the lens of this motivational consultant.

What could the seven habits of highly effective Christians be? And how may these seven habits assist us in our spiritual quest to live the abundant life as Intentional Disciples of Jesus Christ? Let us count the ways in the following talking points.

PRIVATE VICTORIES

#1 - Be Proactive: Principles of Personal Vision

- Repentance and Conversion:
Until we realize the bad news, there is no good news.
- A Personal Relationship with Christ:
Let Christ be your light and guide throughout life.

#2 - Begin with the End in Mind: Principles of Personal Leadership

- Consider the Last Four Things:
Death, judgment, hell, and heaven are for real.
- Keep your eyes fixed on your heavenly goal:
Start living a heavenly life right here and now.

#3 - Put First Things First: Principles of Personal Management

- It's not about things, it's really all about Christ:
There is one thing you can take with you when you die!
- If Jesus is not Lord of all, he is not Lord at all:
Jesus will show you how to make your life work forever.

PUBLIC VICTORIES

#4 - Think Win/Win: Principles of Interpersonal Leadership

- The New Commandment of Jesus:
Love others just as Christ has loved us.
- Personal Holiness and the Call to Mission:
When we give away our faith, we have more faith.

#5 - Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood: Principles of Empathic Communication

- The Method Modeled by the Master:
Win souls for Christ, build them up, and send them forth.
- Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ:
Share your greatest discovery with others: Jesus Christ.

#6 - Synergize: Principles of Creative Cooperation

- The works of mercy work both ways:
We help them in their need, Jesus blesses us as well.
- Christian fellowship as our home base:
Everyone needs a place to call their spiritual home.

The statements in this document are talking points for a conversation that starts with life coaching and then transforms into spiritual direction. Stephen Covey's motivation principles move beyond apply techniques to developing character for success in this life.

Although not explicitly stated in his writings or his presentations, a religious foundation is palpably present throughout his program. Covey's movement from effectiveness to greatness evokes a spiritual application to discover something more than even greatness itself.

The ChristLife course (ChristLife.org) can help you appreciate Covey all the more, once you take the next steps toward Christ as your Lord. Effectiveness and greatness, when realized as holiness and virtue, can lead us to salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ.