

More Than A Coach

Can you name someone in your life or someone that you've read about that's made an impact in your life? There's been so many in mine that I could spend all day sharing stories or talking about them. I may lean towards a family member or someone from the sports world that I can look to for inspiration.

On August 8, 2021, the college football world lost former Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden. At the age of 91, Coach Bowden left a huge mark not only on college football but a life that he led by putting Christ first in his life. The major networks had tributes throughout the day of stories from coaches, former players, and games that will live a lasting mark on college football. **I mean..who can't forget the game against Clemson in 1988 and the famous "Puntrooskie."**

I knew that Coach Bowden was a man of faith but didn't know how he transformed the lives of his players by sharing with them about God and having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Coach Bowden once said, **"Your reputation is what people say about you. Your character is what God knows about you."** If we say we are people of God, or children of God, who know the truth and believe the truth, and live by the truth, then we need to show a uniquely different CHARACTER, one filled with compassion, and a deep conviction.

We are called to be light and salt of the earth, we are to love even our enemies, and an uncompromising commitment to the truth of God. We are called to not blend with the rest of the world. **CHARACTER IS WHO YOU ARE**, not **WHAT** you do or say. Jesus came to transform our lives – not just to give us a good life, although it is true that knowing Christ does bring us blessings. Jesus came to rid sin and change us from being a sinner to one who can reflect **HIS** righteousness and beauty.

"And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." -Romans 5:3-5 (NRSV)

Shalom,

+Pastor Ben