

## Success in One Word

Warren Buffett once said that success at the end of your life comes down to one word.

On many accounts, Warren Buffet has been successful – especially in the arenas of investment and innovation. Many have asked Buffett about the keys to success, including a group of students at Georgia Tech.

Buffett replied, “If you get to my age in life and nobody thinks well of you, I don’t care how big your bank account is, your life is a disaster.”

In biography about his life entitled, *The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life*, Buffett also shared this piece of wisdom with the students:

“Basically, when you get to my age, you’ll really measure your success in life by how many of the people you want to have love you actually do love you.

I know many people who have a lot of money, and they get testimonial dinners and they get hospital wings named after them. But the truth is that nobody in the world loves them.

That’s the ultimate test of how you have lived your life. The trouble with love is that you can’t buy it... The only way to get love is to be lovable... The more you give love away, the more you get.

Let me clarify: The key lesson and ‘the ultimate test’ of a meaningful life are not about money but focus on the most powerful emotion humans experience: love.”

Jesus, the Son of God, taught this truth long before Buffett. Two brothers were arguing over an inheritance. Jesus said to them: “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15).

The best things in life are not things; it’s loving relationships that matter most. Jesus taught it and lived it; Buffett has acknowledged that truth; we all need to embrace it.

And there’s one relationship that is most important: our relationship with God.

Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2), but God loves us anyway. He took the initiative in making reconciliation possible by giving His Son to die on the cross for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). “For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much

more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:10).

God will save from sin and be reconciled to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

The best things in life are not things; it's relationships – first, our relationship with God and then with the people around us. Investments in our relationships pay the greatest dividends.

-- David A. Sargent

\* Information gleaned from “Warren Buffett Once Said That Success at the End of Your Life Comes Down to 1 Word” by Marcel Schwantes in *Inc.*, [www.inc.com](http://www.inc.com).