

Chapter 46: *Is Your ePortfolio Award Worthy?*

Life Application Verses:

Ephesians 4:25-32. ²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

 **R-E-A-D-Y F-O-R T-H-I-S...!!!** 

If someone asked you right now to explain what an ePortfolio is, what would you say? Let me give you a short hint: According to professional development and workforce gurus, an ePortfolio is the future replacement for the old paper-style format of the resume. For instance, take a look at Figure 1, which is an example Award Winning ePortfolio from a student at Clemson University¹. See any features you like? How would you express to someone what you see in this ePortfolio? What is its purpose? And you say, “How does this even remotely have anything to do with Heavenly Minded, Earthly good?” Well, **your** ePortfolio, of course!

Consider the following question if it were posed to you and me: Is Your ePortfolio Award Worthy? First off, what award are we talking about; **Eternal Life!** Next, after we are saved by God’s Grace, and when we view our lives in light of Ephesians 4: 25-32, and if we developed our ePortfolios, would they find favor in the Eyes of God as Award Winners, or would God consider them as conceited, selfish, and of minimal service? IN other words, if we are Saved, and if God were to ask us to present our ePortfolios to Him, what would they say to the Host of Heaven? Would they be self-serving, God-serving, Christ-centered, or non-committal status quo? What artifacts would we present in these ePortfolios? The first artifact **MUST** be our Salvation in

¹ <http://www.clemson.edu/academics/programs/eportfolio/awards.html>

Christ Jesus! Before continuing, gander at Figure 1 and think of your own Christian ePortfolio, then we'll talk. **(Note: Once we are Saved, we ONLY have Christian ePortfolios, right? Right!)**

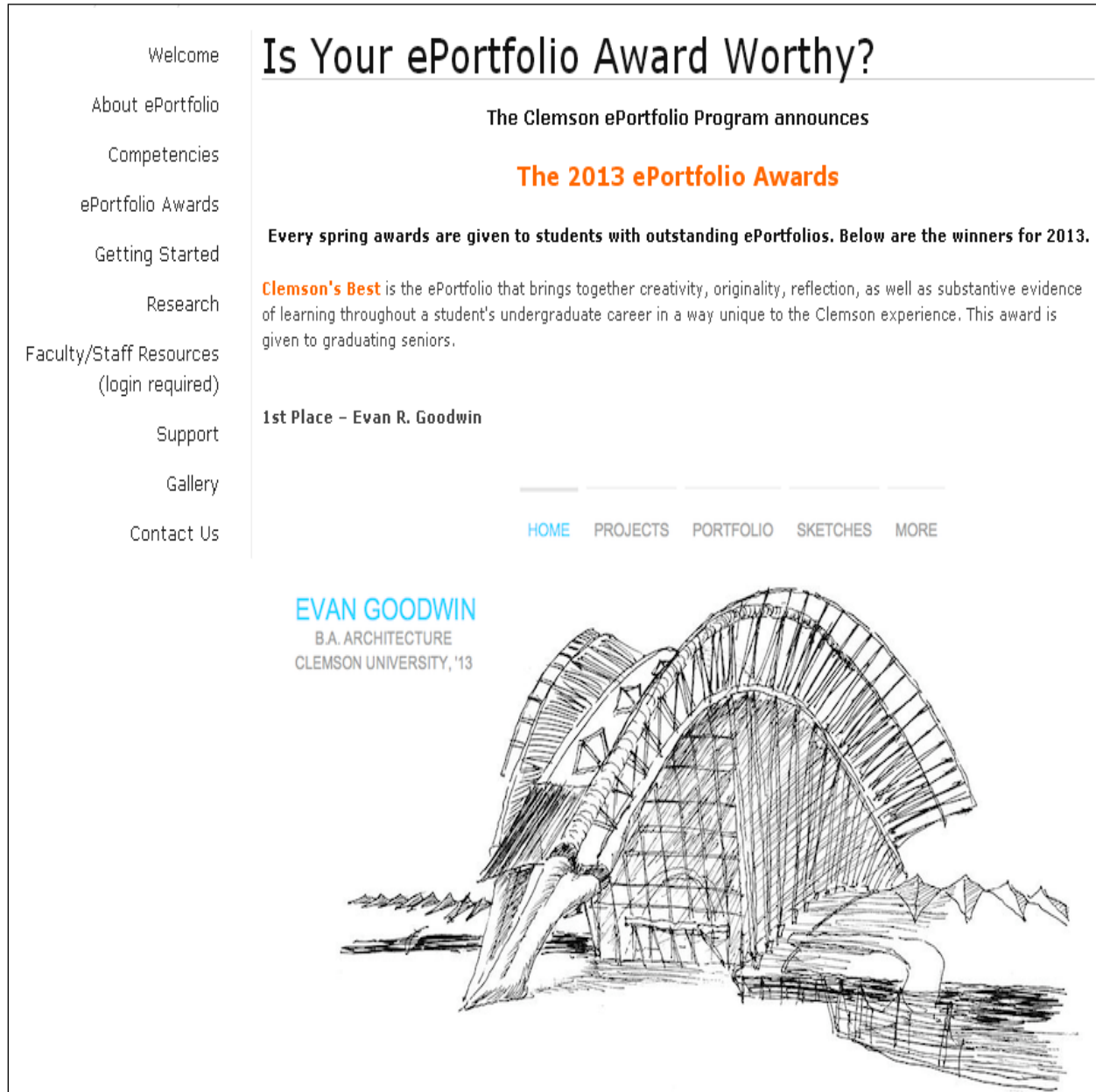


Figure 1. Sample ePortfolio.

So, a bit of clarity on artifacts for an ePortfolio. Artifacts are a collection of items that you want to present to the interested party. In this case—God, The Father; Jesus, The Son; and the Host of Heaven. What specifically, are these artifacts? These are the things you want to share, things you have done, community service you have accomplished, and so forth. These

are like the 5 items you see in Figure 1: *Home, Projects, Protfolio, Sketches, and More*. What five items would you include in response to the Life Application Versus?

But first, what about your own Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good ePortfolio? What would it look like if it were published on the Christian GlobalNet? How about the sample indicated in Figure 2. Would it look like this or something else? Here's what I'm getting at...



Figure 2. An example, not a model for boasting!

If you were to build a web site and publish your ePortfolio, what would it include? To answer this question, I want to walk through these scriptures from the Life Application Verses and correlate these to our extra-ordinary Christian lives in terms of Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good Christian Learning Outcomes (CLOs). [As an aside, in education, we call these Student Learning Outcomes, or SLOs, and these are the things we set as the goals for our students to accomplish.] Therefore, our Christian Learning Outcomes (CLOs) are those things we should set as goals to accomplish in our daily walk with Christ Jesus in Obedience to God as we study His

Word and the lessons Jesus provided us in the New Testament. So, without further ado, let's get started...and do some ePortfolio Mining! If you need a Tutorial on this topic, contact me!

Ephesians 4: 25. “²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.” Would your ePortfolio include artifacts that demonstrated speaking the truth over-and-above falsehood or avoidance of the full-truth? Would the items you publish validate your CLOs to indicate that ‘we are members of one another’ in our Followership with Jesus Christ? Would the very items we publish speak Truth to those who view out ‘folio?’ There is a simple truth about truth: it stands on its own merits. It does not need steel support beams to hold it up; it requires no going-to-and-fro (it's called pacing in today's terminology) and worry that it might be usurped and made into a lie (although in today's Evil world, this occurs much too frequently); Truth is the foundation of our CLOs because God said it, Jesus demonstrated it, and that's *Veritas* (Truth) that cannot be altered. Think about it...how would you document Truth in your life? When I think about this, I think about what I tell people—did I do what I said, did I live that Scripture as it was intended, did I actually fulfill my goals for my CLOs? Wow, to tell you the truth, this is getting too real and making me nervous; how about you? Which Truth? God's Truth!

Ephesians 4: 26-27. “²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.” How in the Name of Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good, can we possibly validate our CLOs in this verse? As a person of ordinary mental ability, ordinary stamina, and ordinary understanding, this means...if you get mad/angry/upset, **YET** do not sin. If you are so mad you can't control yourself, count to 10, or 100, or 1000000000 if you need to; remember what happened to Moses and apply that CLO to accomplish our own CLOs—which includes *this* lesson from God. It doesn't say, ‘you will not be angry.’ I get angry about paying in more taxes every year, yet our Government wants even more. I get angry about the crimes I read about in the newspaper or on the wire services via the Internet. I get angry about some stuff that needs no consideration at all. The key to this is, righteous anger, yet without sin. Righteous anger is what would anger God; what we should do as His Children is mobilize our Christian Political Will; send out the alert for our Prayer Warriors; and we should not allow the sun to fade into the West while we hold that anger. IN other words, let the anger guide us to action, not rule over us to sin. We must refuse to sin so that the devil will flee from our presence as we rely on God in Prayer, Patience, and CLO action. DO NOT GIVE THE devil AN OPPORTUNITY!!!!!!!!!! PERIOD!!!

Ephesians 4: 28. “²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.” Speaking as an ordinary Christian, with aforethought to Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good considerations, this to me means: To steal something, is to take what does not belong to me. I didn't work to earn it, therefore, it has no “possessional” right to be in my possession. We soften the term by calling it theft, but stealing is taking by any means deemed appropriate to self. God said, in no uncertain terms, “If you have been stealing—STOP”; labor with your own hands and earn what you have; one of your CLOs is to have

earned *something* that you can share with one who has need. How would you validate this in your ePortfolio? Can you say, “MUG SHOT?” Or better yet, can you say, “I visited the home-bound and gave them a grocery bag full of food, bought with my hard-earned money?” You might have had a picture of you and the in-need family members taken and this would surely be better than a mug shot! A picture of you leaving a home with a bag full of groceries that does not belong to you is not what this CLO means at all...but you already knew that! How would you validate this verse in your ePortfolio? It’s getting tougher by the verse to indicate how we would demonstrate our CLOs via this ‘efolio’—or is it? Think like God in Christ Jesus thinks, and it ain’t so difficult to understand. It is more Blessed to Give than to STEAL!!!!

Ephesians 4: 29. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” Imagine this: your entire life in words is recorded and becomes part of your ePortfolio? Would these words be Award Worthy? Or would they chafe the paint off the walls at times? For example, if your ePortfolio had a link to your Lifetime Voice in Words (LVW) recording, would it be a consistent voice of Praise, Glory to God, and speaking the Name of Jesus; or, would it be like a roller-coaster ride that was glorious words of Praise and Honor on Sunday at the crest of the ride and a hodge-podge of slanders and curses in the valleys of the ride? God didn’t tell us not to cuss or slander or threaten; He said, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” I’ve underlined the important parts of this verse! So, will our Lifetime Voice in Words that we publish in our ePortfolio be a CLO that fulfills this verse or will our LVW be evidence that we did not meet the CLO by several degrees of failure? You see what I’m getting at here? Would this LVW of our ePortfolio be Award Worthy? When you have a moment, rewind your LVW and listen to it? There’s nothing like the present to STOP the old and START the new. Let the future LVW be as God directed, and it will change your Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good, life! FOREVER!!!! When a stranger curses near you, how does it make you feel? It is more than likely NOT an acceptable behavior for the Children of God. Eh???

Ephesians 4: 30-32. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” On a more serious note, v.30 is a CLO that we must remember at all times. For God said, “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” What does this mean to the Children of God? “To understand what it means to grieve the Spirit, we must first understand that this indicates the Spirit possesses personality. Only a person can be grieved; therefore, the Spirit must be a divine person in order to have this emotion. Once we understand this, we can better understand how He is grieved, mainly because we too are grieved. Ephesians 4: 30, tells us that we should not grieve the Spirit. We grieve the Spirit by living like the pagans (4:17-19), by lying (4:25), by being angry (4:26-27), by stealing (4:28), by cursing (4:29), by being bitter (4:31), by being unforgiving (4:32), and by being sexually

immoral (5:3-5). To grieve the Spirit is to act out in a sinful manner, whether it is in thought only or in both thought and deed.² Then, God instructs us to be kind, forgiving, tender-hearted—not bitter, angry, slanderous, and act with malice. Now, with all this said, how can we possibly validate these CLOs as God instructs us if we were to publish our artifacts to an ePortfolio? I would suggest, by word and deed. Someone did us ‘bad-wrong’ and we Prayed for them. Artifact: “I was treated very unfairly and it nearly cost me my job, but I Prayed and asked God to forgive him.” I met a co-worker who was having a hard time with a decision and I witnessed to him. He received the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Artifact: “I stood up in Faith and witnessed to a co-worker who is now bound for Eternal Life.” I had an opportunity to cheat on my wife, but I refused to go down that road. Artifact: “I remained faithful to my wife and my God.” I believe that you are seeing what these artifacts are in terms of an ePortfolio. The list is endless and as Scripture has indicated, our ePortfolios are constantly running—in word, deed, thought, and our very CLOs.

Whether we actually have a web-based ePortfolio or we simply ignore the idea altogether, we have one my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. It runs on God’s Heavenly Web-Server, it operates 24x7, and it records for all time every artifact we create. If we do Earthly Good, those artifacts reflect these things; if, on the other hand, our actions are those God warned us about in the Life Application Verses, those artifacts are posted to our ePortfolio as well. My CLO here is to ask you: “Is Your ePortfolio Award Worthy?” We all have one...an ePortfolio, that is, whether we acknowledge it or make every attempt to ignore it.

A Question of Curiosity:

Most artifacts posted to ePortfolios are outcomes that are committed; however, there are many artifacts which are not posted because of things omitted. Regardless, all artifacts we create are posted to God’s ePortfolio for every single one of us. Remember this, as God said, Be Faithful! Read the Life Application Verses again and reflect on the idea of the ePortfolio.

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Ephesians 4:25-32. ²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

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² <http://www.gotquestions.org/grieve-quiet-Holy-Spirit.html>

My Prayer For You:

To You, O God, I give the Honor, Glory, and Praise for my very life. Without You in my life, I would be the most miserable of men. It is my prayer that the words I have written in this chapter will be used by You to reach out to someone in need, whether that person is a Christian of 90 years or a new Christian of only minutes. I ask You, Lord, to use these words to remind every single one of us that we are Free in the Salvation of Jesus Christ, but that we do not have the right, nor should we desire to, “grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Remind us that this idea of the ePortfolio is to us a Truth, that we are responsible for our actions and our Christian Learning Outcomes. I pray that if someone has been struggling with how they are living their lives, this idea presented will cause them to flee from sinful outcomes and turn to You in all things. I pray that the artifacts we create are Worthy to be posted to our ePortfolio and You will be pleased with what we do. Life is many times a hardship just to survive, but with You Leading us in all things, our Lives are Guided and our paths made straight. I pray that all of us—myself included—will read these words in Ephesians 4: 25-32 and not simply read these words, but bring these words into our lives to be ever before our eyes as we get up each morning, go out the door, and interact with others. Write these words on our hearts so that as we live, every thought, action, reaction, and outcome will be accomplished with the Light of Christ shining on us. For it is in the Name of the Son of God that I ask these things, Amen and Amen.

Assignment 101 (May not exceed two pages, double-spaced)

Possible Points: 0 to ∞^3

Here’s an activity for you to actually do when you have some time:

1. Write a Resume that you will submit to Jesus Christ;
2. Include your name, address, and any other heading you would like to include;
3. List your education;
4. List your work experience;
5. List your community service;
6. What awards have you received; and,
7. Include a ‘Reflection’ section to speak about your Family, Friends, and your Faith.

Purpose in this exercise: To initiate in your Mind, Body, and Spirit, the artifacts of your life as seen through the Eyes of Christ Himself. When you are done, submit your Resume to yourself through the Eyes of Christ. (See the Example on the next two pages.)

³ ∞ is infinity, or Eternity, in this case.

Billy Bob Boulderdash
12345 Home Place
Homestate, USA

Education: PhD, Auburn University
MS, Auburn University Montgomery
BSEE, Georgia Southern University
AA, University of Maryland, European Division

(Where is Jesus in all of this? Was He there during tests and projects? You didn't forget Him, did you? When you studied all those textbooks, you studied God's Textbook, too, right? Did you take any exams from God's Book? Do these artifacts Praise God? Have you used these artifacts to Praise God through Christ Jesus? Think carefully before you answer!)

Experience: Taught in the community college 35 years; university 20 years.
Chair of Division for 20 years.
Published in Peer-reviewed journals and various venues 400 articles.
Books published: 25+
Conference presentations: 100
Original curriculum designer for division through 5 iterations of upgrades.
Director of several student groups, winning many awards in the process.

(Where is Jesus in all of this? Did you give Him the Praise and credit for the job? Was it you, who got that job because of your education and abilities and opportunities? From whence did those educational achievements originate, or your abilities and opportunities stem from? Not from within ourselves alone? God in Christ gave us all that we have, from Blessings to Accolades. Was Jesus in the midst of all that you experienced? If not, why not? And if not, is what we experience because of our own power apart from God? Maybe, in our eyes, but that--I promise you--will be short lived. Do these artifacts Praise God? Have you used these artifacts to Praise God through Christ Jesus? Think carefully before you answer!)

Community

Service: Helped with Great Day of Service at my local church.
Gave donations to local charities.
Went to an elementary school and clean up for the start of the new school year.
Helped at the County Arboretum cutting trees and clearing the trails.

(Did I do these things for Jesus or for my ePortfolio? No matter what you may call it--your resume, curriculum vitae, or your experiences/community service, are you doing these things for Jesus or for you?)

Awards: Presented Special Session at an International Conference—MAJOR award!
Nominated for Faculty of the Year three times; Won final year!!!
Received a National Teaching Excellence Award!
Have been presented several local awards of various types in my profession.
Was awarded 1st Prize for a Poetry Contest.
And other awards in many years of work and service...

(Billy Graham has noted that when he meets Jesus, he will lay down all of his awards and accolades at the feet of Christ. When we win an Award, how does it make us feel? Valued, gratified, Glorified? Those feelings are not Sin, unless we achieve them in contrast to what God in Christ has told us about life and living it for Him. Think about every little achievement you have had; will you be willing to give them up—from the smallest to the most glorious award imaginable—and place them at the Feet of Jesus?)

Reflection: As I think about Family, Friends, and Faith, and whether my ePortfolio is Award Winning, it all comes down to my Faith in Christ Jesus. Without Christ, my Family, Friends, and Faith are illusions that are short lived. Why? Because without Christ, at the end of my tenure on this Earth—which is but a vapor—I will leave this world and be bound for Eternal Separation from God. I can think of no worse artifact to post to my ePortfolio than to die without Jesus as Lord and Savior. Can you? And, once we have Christ, our time with Family, Friends, and how we live our Faith changes from a darkness to a Light—the Light of the World, the Holy Son of God. Our Family then becomes the center of our lives in and through God in Christ; the love we share becomes more deeply rooted in each other because of the Holy Spirit in our lives as God in Christ provides; and, we truly become one as He intended. The same is true with our Friends; our relationships are a bond that is as close as a brother because of what God in Christ has done in our very Souls when we live as Born Again Children of God. And, our Faith—even when tested to the very breaking point, and YES, this can happen—remains contiguous, not disjointed. As I reflect on these things, I cherish my Family; I care about my Friends; and, I give God in Christ all the Praise for my Faith as it carries me from small events to near catastrophic outcomes that the enemy wants to use as the ruse to drive a wedge between me and God. I say: **DO NOT GIVE THE devil AN OPPORTUNITY!!!!!! PERIOD!** Call on God, the enemy will flee!