

IDEALS

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

The **IDEALS** rollo is the first rollo of the first full day; it opens the door between the outside world, from which the candidates have come, and the world which will be unfolding during the Tres Dias Weekend.

There are several aspects of this rollo which make it unique among Tres Dias rollos. First, it is the lead-off rollo of the Weekend. This rollo sets the model for the other rollos as uninterrupted, prepared, formal presentations, followed by discussion time at the tables. Second, it is the only rollo which does *not* offer an answer to the question it poses; namely: “**What are your ideals?**” The primary answer (a life of Grace under the Lordship of Jesus Christ) is left to the next and succeeding rollos. Third, this is the *only* rollo during the three days which does *not* mention the name of God (not the Father, not Jesus Christ, the Son, and not the Holy Spirit [nor any other name by which God is known]). These characteristics make this rollo a challenging talk to prepare and present on this Weekend, because the Weekend has likely been portrayed by the sponsor to the candidate as a weekend which includes Christian talks. However, it is very important that the rollo be prepared and presented taking into account and being diligent to consider these three characteristics, and not using material meant to be included in later rollos. There is a natural progression in the talks; it is purposeful that the Weekend does not begin with a “Piety-like” rollo.

Another important aspect of this rollo is that it is designed to present the *concept* of a person having ideals; it is to be given from a secular point of view. The use of examples understood by the secular world is most helpful in this first rollo. As alluded to above, the next rollo introduces God’s grace, while the final rollo of the day (Piety) is the rollo which makes it clear that for the Christian, there are not multiple ideals, but *one ideal*, with a person focusing his/her life totally and completely toward God.

People attending this Weekend are coming from all different places in their Christian walks. Therefore, it is important to start out the Weekend using a low-key approach, which will likely be understood by persons who are just beginning their walk with the Lord, as well as by those persons who have been devoted Christians for many years.

Time objective: Should not exceed **15** minutes.

IDEALS

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION**
 - A. Superiority of humans vs. natural kingdom**
 - B. Define an Ideal**

- II. EXAMPLES OF IDEALS**

- III. THE NECESSITY OF IDEALS IN LIFE**
 - A. Ideals give meaning to life**
 - B. Ideals shape one's character**

- IV. THE INFLUENCE OF IDEALS ON LIFE**
 - A. Ideals form life with purpose and meaning**
 - B. Ideals give people enthusiasm for work**
 - C. Ideals make you rise above yourself**

- V. THE QUALITIES OF AN AUTHENTIC IDEAL**
 - A. Challenging**
 - B. Attainable**

- VI. HOW IDEALS ARE ATTAINED**
 - A. Focused effort**
 - B. Mature reasoning**
 - C. Changing goals**

- VII. HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR IDEALS?**
 - A. Use of Time**
 - B. Use of Talents**
 - C. Use of Treasures**
 - D. Focus of Thoughts**

- VIII. CONCLUSION**
 - **You each have Ideals! What are they?**
 - **To learn the answer to that question, ask yourself: How do you use your time; how do you use your talents; how do you use your treasures and on what do you focus your thoughts?**

IDEALS

COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE

(This material is intended as a study aid for the Rollista. It is not intended to be the rollo.)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Superiority of humans vs. natural kingdom. Humans are composed of mind, body, and spirit; they are different from and superior to animals and have been granted dominion over animals and all the elements on earth. The **IDEALS** rollo distinguishes humans from minerals, vegetation, and animals (all the things of nature) because of the advanced intelligence, will, and freedom of humans as compared to those elements of the natural kingdom:

- Minerals exist;
- Vegetation exists and has life;
- Animals exist, have life, and have a sense of survival;
- Humans exist, have life, have a sense of survival and because of their advanced intelligence, have an ability to reason, make plans, develop visions and perform numerous extremely complicated tasks.

B. Define an Ideal. An ideal may be defined (according to “Webster’s New World Dictionary”) as: *“existing as an idea, a model; thought of as perfect; existing only in the mind; imaginary; idealism; a conception of something in its most excellent form; a perfect model.”*

Ideals motivate a person’s life by giving an overall direction for what a person wants to achieve. Life takes on meaning when people have ideals and have used them to establish purpose for their lives. Some persons consciously choose their ideals and establish specific goals to move them toward their ideals. Others have ideals, but have not made any specific goals to assist them in achieving their ideals. They simply make decisions each day about situations that arise and hope they are moving in the right direction. Still others have not established any overriding ideals for their lives. They live each day as it comes along. Persons frequently learn that they gather values from the environment around them. An ideal serves as a compass to give direction to decisions about life’s choices. Goals provide specific, measurable, and attainable steps to move us toward those overriding ideals.

II. EXAMPLES OF IDEALS

- A football quarterback might establish an ideal to be recognized as the MVP in his league or to be known as the greatest quarterback of his time. He might then establish a specific goal to throw more passes for touchdowns than any other quarterback before him.
- A young person might have as his/her ideal to become a world famous doctor or research scientist who would develop a total and complete cure for diseases like

cancer, for the benefit of mankind. His/Her goals might include achieving excellence in science classes in high school, winning a college scholarship, enrolling in a top medical school, and so forth.

- A person might choose the ideal of being a highly successful author. A goal toward achieving that ideal might be that his/her manuscript would be the largest first edition printing of a hard cover book; more than any other author to date.

III. THE NECESSITY OF IDEALS IN LIFE

- A. Ideals give meaning to life.** It is essential that a person have one or more ideals at all times during his/her life. Without having ideals, a person just stumbles along without any kind of direction or purpose. In reality, there probably is not such a thing as not having ideals. It's just that having consciously developed ideals gives stature, worth, direction, and purpose to an individual.
- B. Ideals shape one's character.** Ideals shape and characterize one's life; they become overriding forces which cause people to live and act the way they do.

IV. THE INFLUENCE OF IDEALS ON LIFE

- A. Ideals form life with purpose and meaning.** Having ideals gives purpose and meaning to our lives. Ideals provide form and direction to us as we pursue our various activities. They actually become a part of who we are and what we are about.
- B. Ideals give people enthusiasm for work.** Having ideals and attaining them provides people with enthusiasm for life's pursuits; this is especially true as we are able to see the accomplishments of our goals and to measure them, as we move toward our ideals.
- C. Ideals make you rise above yourself.** As one measures his/her goals and achievements toward meeting their ideals, he/she may want to modify those goals or establish new ones in order to pursue even higher levels that would enable him/her to rise above what was previously thought possible.

V. THE QUALITIES OF AN AUTHENTIC IDEAL

- A. Challenging.** An authentic ideal should be challenging. While the authentic ideal may not be perfection, a person should strive to be close to it. If someone is willing to settle for mediocrity, then that is likely what will be achieved. However, there may and should be various levels of achievement as one moves toward an ideal.
- B. Attainable.** Even though an ideal should be exceedingly high, it should usually be attainable. If an ideal is set too high to achieve, it may only bring frustration and disappointment, and may even cause one to give up totally. It may be necessary, therefore, to adjust or modify an ideal to allow for certain levels of achievement, using one's best effort. Some ideals, though, may never be attained; however, they will serve as an inspiration to want to go higher.

VI. HOW ARE IDEALS ATTAINED?

- A. Focused effort.** The first step in attaining an ideal is to understand that it requires focused effort and hard work. The effort must be consciously made; it is usually not of short duration. Many years may be required in school or other preparation before actually even beginning to work in the field of a particular endeavor, let alone attaining the person's established ideals.
- B. Mature Reasoning.** The second step requires mature reasoning to understand which ideals are reasonable and attainable and which are so high as to be totally impossible to achieve.
- C. Changing Goals.** Finally, a plan needs to be established, preferably a written one, including specific goals, which will move a person toward his/her ideals. In the process of carrying out this plan, goals will change. Some goals may be modified, some may be discarded and still others may be added along the way; however, all of these goals will lead toward the one or several ideals a person has established for his/her life.

VII. HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR IDEALS?

(This is a critical section of the rollo. Most candidates will accept the concept that they have ideals, which motivate their lives. However, very few people actually set aside time to reflect on what their ideals are. There are four basic questions the candidates [or any person] can ask themselves which will likely determine for them what their ideals are; the questions are):

- A.** How do you use your **TIME**?
- B.** How do you use your **TALENTS**?
- C.** How do you use your **TREASURES**?
- D.** What is the focus of your **THOUGHTS**?

It is important for us to consider how we use ALL of our time, talents, treasures, and thoughts when answering these questions, and NOT limit our consideration to our free time, extra money, special talents, and occasional thoughts.

It is also important that the rollista not make value judgments about what ideals the candidates might have. Your purpose as a rollista is to challenge them to examine *their ideals* and *not* to indicate any value on or preference for any specific ideals. This is the reason we do not make any reference to God or Jesus in this rollo.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Because ideals are central to our lives, everyone needs to know what their ideals are. The rollo should be summarized with a statement similar to the following:

- **“You each have ideals whether you recognize them or not. What are your ideals?”**

Finally, it is recommended that the rollista conclude with a statement similar to the following:

- **“To learn the answer to that question, I suggest you ask yourself once again: How do you use your time; how do you use your talents; how do you use your treasures and what is the focus of your thoughts?”**

This will challenge the candidates to think about their own life situation and help to prepare the way for the next rollo - - - and in many respects, for the rest of the Weekend. In a major way, this rollo points toward the last rollo of the day (**Piety**), during which it will become increasingly clear that for the Christian, there is but *one ideal*; directing one’s whole life to Christ. However, that is another rollo and that thought **MUST** be reserved for the **Piety** rollista.

Note to the rollista: *There is far more subject matter in this “**Commentary . . .**” than is required to meet the time objective of the rollo. While it is necessary to speak very briefly on each item listed in the outline, be careful to select for expansion, only those items for which you have something significant to contribute - - usually through personal experience. Remember, the more important part of the Weekend will occur during table discussions than what participants will learn or remember from hearing the rollo. The rollo is meant more to spark ideas for the table discussions than it is meant to be instructive.*

Time objective: Should not exceed **15** minutes.