While we DCs, as professionals in our respective communities, should act responsively and with integrity, it is also true that we chiropractors who are Christians should live above that level of professionalism. I’m referring to that lifestyle as ‘practicing above the tree tops’ - living a lifestyle that is ethically above the level of a merely moral chiropractor - a lifestyle that stands out as a Christ-follower. As a part of being a light in the world, and in an effort to be a witness to our patients as well as to our peers, we should ‘be mature and fully developed’ in our faith walk. Granted, this is a tall order, but the Word commands it, so by His grace, we can do it.

Yet practically speaking, what does that look like? In this, the second of my articles on the topic, I will discuss the first aspect of living above the tree tops. You might think that the first part of that lifestyle might be ‘witnessing’ to those around us. But I suggest that we need to earn the right to do that first by living a life that demonstrates that we offer something different - something better.

So the first part of running a Christian practice is the atmosphere of our practice. When a patient walks into our practice, what do they experience? Once a month, doctor, take 5 minutes and walk into the front door of your office and experience the reception area as a patient would. What do you see? Smell? Hear? Are you greeted with a smile and ‘hello’ immediately? Are the corners cobweb free? Is there dust in the areas around the chairs? Is the music uplifting? Is the bathroom clean and fresh smelling? Are the magazines congruent with what you live and believe? Walls must hold information that is congruent with what we teach also. Pictures and posters should trigger thoughts that point conversation toward improving health.

Of course all of this must be built upon the good foundation of our attitude. And that attitude - the purpose for which we are in business and in practice - must be tied to what Jesus said was most important - loving God and loving people. Take a moment right now. Can you write out in one sentence the reason why you are in practice? Does your purpose take you above the level of earning a living to impacting your world for eternity?

And what of the attitude behind the front desk? The staff must believe that what they are doing is positive and important. They must know that what your office offers people is good and right. They must know in their hearts that what the patient is experiencing is real and important. They must focus on the patient more than on their own life drama.

Finally, our efforts must strive toward excellence. We must never rely on what we knew and did yesterday to set the standard of care. Whether we... continued next page.