

# When You Look In The Mirror, What Do You See?

March 14, 2026

1. As Christians - how we view the world is **different**
  - a. from the way the rest of the world
  - b. views itself
2. **World** measures itself by
  - a. The world thinks that money is a barometer of value,
    - i. and if we do not have it
    - ii. in great amounts
    - iii. we feel bad about ourselves.
  - b. Physical beauty has almost become **a religion unto itself**,
    - i. and those **without** it feel **no** value in a society
    - ii. that judges by the looks **on the outside**.

## ILLUSTRATION

A man working in the produce department was asked by a lady if she could buy half a head of lettuce. He replied, "Half a head? Are you serious? God grows these in whole heads and that's how we sell them!"

"You mean," she persisted, "that after all the years I've shopped here, you won't sell me half-a-head of lettuce?" "Look," he said, "If you like I'll ask the manager." She indicated that would be appreciated, so the young man marched to the front of the store. "You won't believe this, but there's a lame-brained idiot of a lady back there who wants to know if she can buy half-a-head of lettuce."

He noticed the manager gesturing, and turned around to see the lady standing behind him, obviously having followed him to the front of the store. "And this nice lady was wondering if she could buy the other half" he concluded.

Later in the day the manager cornered the young man and said, "That was the finest example of thinking on your feet I've ever seen! Where did you learn that?" He said, "I grew up in Grand Rapids, and if you know anything about Grand Rapids, you know that it's known for its great hockey teams and its ugly women."

The manager's face flushed, and he interrupted, "My wife is from Grand Rapids!" "And which hockey team did she play for?"

## MOVING ON...

- c. In this age of technology,
  - i. IQ is also used to determine **who is to be esteemed**
  - ii. and who is in the basement of society
- d. Success
- e. Power

- f. Prestige
  - g. Possessions
3. **Christians** measure the world by
    - a. Lost
    - b. Broken
    - c. Sinful
  
  4. So, what do you see when you look in the mirror?
    - a. What do you see when you look at yourself?
    - b. Are you looking for the things that the world holds important
      - i. Do you see greed
      - ii. An overemphasis on your appearance
        1. The clothes you wear
        2. The Jewelry
        3. The cosmetics you use
        4. The car you drive
        5. The aura you project to the world

**1 Peter 3:3–5**

*“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.”*

5. Too often, we (as Christians) **base our self-worth** on what the world views as valuable.

**James 1:23–25**

*“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.”*

6. When you look in the mirror, **what do you see?**
7. **Do you see Jesus in the mirror?**
8. Do you start you day off reading your Bible and praying
  - a. And then a couple of hours later,

- b. You are behaving like the world
  - c. Forgetting about the person **Jesus is calling you to be**
    - i. Angry
    - ii. Resentful
    - iii. Envious of others
    - iv. Cursing and swearing
    - v. Critical and argumentative
9. **So, this afternoon**, let's look at what we should see
- a. When we look in the mirror
  - b. 4 things**

## **10. YOU ARE NOTHING**

### **Galatians 6:3**

*"If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself."*

- a. Here's an example of someone very familiar with the Bible (a Bible scholar)
  - i. a Pharisee**
- b. Who forgot what he sees in the mirror

### **Luke 18:9–14**

*"To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'*

*"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'*

*"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

- a. The Pharisee
  - a. He saw himself better than others
  - b. False confidence
  - c. His religiosity earned him his position with God
- b. The tax collector **saw himself** in the mirror
  - a. He saw himself as **nothing**
  - b. **Not** deserving to be in God's presence
  - c. Knew he **needed** God's mercy

d. Here is what the tax collector saw when he looked into the mirror

**Romans 7:18–19**

*“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.”*

c. The **Apostle Paul’ mindset** when he looked in the mirror

**1 Corinthians 15:9–10**

*“For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”*

**Philippians 3:4–10**

*“If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.*

*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”*

d. **Jesus’s mindset** when he looked in the mirror

**Philippians 2:5–7**

*“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:  
Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
**but made himself nothing,**  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.”*

e. So, if somebody says something bad about you

- a. Or criticizes you
- b. If you are a nobody, then it shouldn’t throw you into a tail spin
- c. Simply: You’re right!

**11. YOU KNOW NOTHING**

**1 Corinthians 8:1–2**

*“Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.”*

- a. Some of the greatest minds in the world
  - a. Who think they have all the answers
    - i. College professors
    - ii. Philosophers
    - iii. Psychologists
    - iv. Scientists
- b. Are some of the greatest fools

### **1 Corinthians 1:18–21**

*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:*

*“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”*

*Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.*

- c. **Look at how God address them**

### **Romans 1:18–20**

*“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

- d. The Apostle Paul **made his life simple** – remember he was highly educated in his day

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-2**

*“When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”*

## **12. YOU CAN DO NOTHING**

- a. **This is a challenging one**
- b. We like to think that if we **set our mind** to do something **we can accomplish it**.
- c. This mindset works fine in the secular world
- d. But in the **spiritual world** – **NOPE**
- e. We can fool ourselves

f. *“Oh, Look what I did”*

**Daniel 4:28–32**

*“All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”*

*The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.”*

**Jesus says this: John 15:5**

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

**Apostle Paul’s mindset: 1 Corinthians 2:3–5**

*“I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power; so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”*

g. **When you want** to take credit for your accomplishment – **watch out**

h. Humility is crouching at your door!

**13. YOU CAN PRODUCE NOTHING**

a. Notice the warning God gives the Israelites about

i. Attributing their accomplishments to themselves

ii. *“Look at what I did!”*

**Deuteronomy 8:10–18**

*“When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.”*

a. THIS ALSO PERTAINS TO LEADING OTHERS TO CHRIST

### **John 15:4**

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”*

- b. We often times put **too much stock into**
  - a. programs,
  - b. activities
  - c. or work ethics.
  - d. Or just being clever
  - e. BUT IT’S NOT ON US -IT’S ENTIRELY ON GOD

### **John 6:44**

*“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

- c. We bear fruit on God’s timing
- d. When God feels like we are ready
- e. Or when the circumstances are compatible with His will
- f. Or when we pray for Him to use us
  - a. Combined with our righteousness
  - b. (Our life exemplifies Christ)

### **Romans 15:18**

*“I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done.”*

## 14. SO NEXT TIME YOU LOOK INTO THE MIRROR

- a. **What do you see?**
- b. What you see
  - i. will have a lot to do
  - ii. with where you will spend eternity

## 15. WHAT IS THE MIRROR WE LOOK INTO?

### **a. It’s the Bible**

#### **Hebrews 4:12–13**

*“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

- b. The Bible will help us to see **what God already sees.**
- c. It will **penetrate our hearts**
- d. To **root out sin**

- i. Pride
- ii. Selfishness
- iii. Greed
- iv. Folly

**1 Corinthians 13:12**

*“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”*