

The Danger of Outward Appearance

June 12, 2014

Matthew 7:21–23

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 **On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’**

23 And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.**’

John 8:3–11

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst
4 they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”

6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, **“Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”**

8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.

9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

10 Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, **“Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”**

- *If we judge by the outward appearance, our judgment will be wrong. We must find the heart of the matter, the heart of the person. How deceiving the outward package can be!*

2 Corinthians 10:10-12

10 For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account (cast out as nothing, despise, treat with contempt).”

11 Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present.

12 **Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.**

2 Corinthians 5:10-12

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. **But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.**

12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those **who boast about outward appearance** and **not about what is in the heart**.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

16 From now on, therefore, **we regard no one according to the flesh**. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

3 But with me **it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court**. In fact, **I do not even judge myself**.

4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. **It is the Lord who judges me**.

5 **Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart**. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

- *When we judge ourselves, don't judge by the external appearance or the performance of specific actions and words; instead judge by one criteria, am I abiding in relationship and communion with Jesus Christ?*
- *When we judge ourselves, don't judge by comparing ourselves to others; instead judge by one criteria, am I abiding in relationship and communion with Jesus Christ?*
- *When we judge others, don't judge by outward appearance or performance; instead judge by one criteria, do they know God? Is the Holy Spirit and the presence of God evident in their words and actions? Do you see and hear the heart of God in their words and actions?*

"It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is why he does it. The motive is everything." A.W. Tozer

"In Christian service motive is everything, for it is motive that gives to every moral act its final quality." A.W. Tozer