



I. INTRO/REVIEW

- A. The mirror doesn't lie
- B. This seems to be a very human problem

1 John 3:18-21 (MSG) My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves. And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God!

- C. You will always act like the person you believe yourself to be
 - Our beliefs govern what we think, say and do
- D. Reflect/shun

II. THE MIRROR DOESN'T LIE

- A. Transformed

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- B. The mirror of God's word
 - God's word is the only place we can find out who we truly are

James 1:22-25 (NKJV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- The goal of the Christian life isn't to simply follow Jesus ... the goal is to become like Jesus
- C. We are transformed into the image that we see in the mirror

III. GRACE AND TRUTH

- A. Jesus 100% grace and 100% truth

John 1:1-2 (NKJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:14 (NKJV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth.

- B. The mirror reflects grace and truth

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- Humanity was broken beyond repair, under the weight of guilt and shame



Psalm 38:4 (NIV) My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

C. Grace in the face

- Because of Christ, grace steps in, the mirror shifts and we see a second truth – what God says about us

Ephesians 1:7-8 (NIV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

- Rom 5:8 – While we were still sinners – he died for US
- John 1 The word became flesh and dwelt among US
- The king of heaven took off his heavenly robes and took upon himself the form of a servant
- In 2 Cor 3:18, from glory to glory isn't just a fix or patch, it's a fire that purifies
- Lavish grace is the father opening heaven's storehouse of blessing, mercy flooding our lives
- At Christ's expense, we're not just servants or strangers—we're family
- We're not just forgiven, or free, we've been adopted, accepted in the beloved, we're crowned with glory, our cup runs over, we are ambassadors of the kingdom of God
- Grace is both God's gift and transformation fuel of our lives

D. The lavishness of Grace

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Colossians 2:9-10 (NKJV) For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Romans 8:32 (NKJV) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalm 84:11 (NKJV) For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

E. We're often stuck between two truths

Question: What do you do when what you know to be true conflicts with what you believe to be true?

The gap between what you know to be true and what you believe to be true is the difference between bondage and freedom in your life.

Philemon 1:6 (KJV) That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.