

What Do We Reflect?

What do people see when they look at you and me, observe our actions, and hear us speak? Do they see a distinctive lifestyle characterized by the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness?

In a small book written in 1946 titled *The Meaning of Christ*, R. C. Johnson, likened Jesus to a window. The function of a window is being transparent it permits one to see clearly what is in view. A window reveals what is intended to be seen. When we see Jesus, we see God the Father as shown by the Scriptures. Philip said to Jesus, *Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us. Jesus said to him, ...He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (Jn. 14:8,9b).

Jesus expects us to be a window through which others see Him and glorify our Father in heaven. Jesus said, *I am the light of the world* (Jn. 8:12a). *He also said you are the light of the world. We are to let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven* (Matt. 5:14,16). The true and definitive source of information about Jesus is found only in Scripture. In the Bible we readily learn to “see Jesus” and understand how to be like Him. Paul said, *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ* (1 Cor.11:1). We can know how to be like Jesus by being conformed to His image (Rm. 8:29).

We can see through the “window” presented by Jesus, a Father in heaven that is patient with us when we are weak and selfish. This is shown in how Jesus dealt with two of His disciples, James and John, who wanted to sit on his right and left in His kingdom (Matt. 20:20-28). We also see through this window of Jesus a man that prayed regularly to God, and how utterly foolish is the notion that God has taken a hands-off approach to His creation. He answers the prayers of His children. Additionally, we understand the importance of letting our light shine before our children so they see Jesus in us, as we bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Matt. 5:16, Eph. 6:4).

There are many other beautiful pictures of God that can be seen through the window presented by Jesus. Do our friends and neighbors see Jesus and our Heavenly Father in our worship and daily lives?

For the elders,
Don Denton