

What do we reflect?

Every time man sins he forgets a great truth. "He was made in God's image and was not created for such actions". A little of himself dies every time he commits a transgression until he is swallowed up by death completely. The saddest fact is men transgress seeking for a deep desire. The desire is simply to be satisfied, being as the one who created them. Gn. 3:4

If you met a man and he was the son of Pavarotti you would expect that he had musical talent. Or the son of Einstein, wouldn't you feel he probably would be a smart child. Of course, as you would expect them to be a reflection of their father. What about us? We are God's children. God is our Father. We are of the same family and carry His family traits. Gal.5. Why would it be strange that others see that we carry the image of our Father in heaven. That we manifest His traits and are as He is. Shouldn't this be normal? We are born again into the Children of Almighty God. Meditate on this for a moment and let this truth go deep into your inner man and feel the great importance of this FACT.

Our original design was for a real life. It is not the one we are accustomed to seeing daily around us. The decay and death around us. The media and the world's system presents a beautiful lie. And the beauty is very deceptive and takes little to see through it for what it is. We may try with external things but we can never be satisfied as God has put Himself in us. There will always be a longing for fulfillment in Him. Nothing else will suffice and the sooner we surrender the easier it will be. Otherwise we will always feel lacking in what we are as God's image bearer.

Children manifest the fact that God made us in His image. God's nature is a creator. He is always creating. What is the first thing a small child desires to do? Give them a pencil and watch them. They all become artists creating images from their little minds. They will fill up books of blank paper. With great effort they will design mamma, papa and the little puppy. Then with great pride ask your opinion. God is that way with us. One day He will put His hand on us and say: Look out and see my habitation and yours. Look at what I created for you! What do you think? And I know I will respond, oh thank You as it is the most beautiful designed garden and creation that has ever been designed. I feel He will be pleased with my appreciation of His work. Why? I am His child. I have a 10 year old grand daughter. Her name is Ashley. She will color and draw for hours. Then present it to me explaining every detail. The sun, the sky and the horses in the grass. Because she is so young the quality is far from perfect. At times a little ugly. But because she is my little Ashley and I love her so much for me it is beautiful. She's my grand child! I will put it on the refrigerator door and give her praise for her great piece of art. For no reason but love. I am pleased and she is pleased. I think me more than her.

And God in His greatness and love will present to us a beautiful creation, New Jerusalem and only because we are His children made in His image and have been washed in His blood. We carry with us from birth the desire to create and enjoy beauty. No animal can enjoy beauty only God's image bearers can. As He is the greatest lover

of beauty that exists as He showed it in all He created. It is not an accident that we enjoy beautiful art, sunsets and a sky full of stars. We love beauty and all beauty is in God. As we know God better we will appreciate more the beauty He enjoys.

God intends to use us and complete us. Our life is like a dress rehearsal. Some day our existence will be a joy. There is a grand drama coming for each of us and we will be the players for eternity with our heavenly Father.

All I have said is beautiful and fine, yes. We are made in God's image! Hallelujah. But this creates a dilemma. We have to go through what Jesus went through. The pressure of this age and the moral filth all around us. The contamination of this life that renders us unsatisfied and feeling condemned. From every side we are afflicted and tormented to a point we wonder what image we carry.

Let me encourage you. Think for a minute of a moment when you felt totally happy, satisfied and complete. It might have been a birth, marriage or other event that just thrilled you to a point of ecstasy. It could have been seeing some one you love very much or a child you have not been able to touch from its birth. Now imagine that feeling for eternity with our Lord. I CAN'T WAIT!!!!

I have a question? How many of your plans take eternity into account?" Let's see, I am going to be alive forever now if I don't accomplish what I feel I must or have what I feel I need at this moment what does that really mean"? Why am I unsatisfied with my situation in life. How should I feel? Reality is, no human reaches his full potential here in this life. Why are we frustrated things don't seem to be working out and we even feel a little upset with God. Is this rational in the face of eternal life? We must develop our sense of that we are as an eternal being never created to die but to live for ever. We talk like we believe it but live many times as this short and miserable life is the only one we have and we must strive and worry ever passing moment as things are not working out as we feel they should. Don't forget God is still in control of ALL things.

I am waiting for a world no longer stained by sin. Only then will my true potential be accomplished. I must be patient now and be diligent in what Jesus let's me accomplish.

Life is now a battle and a journey. I no longer live from day to day or month to month but from one phase to another. I am now in one of my latter phases, I think.

We must guard our desire for eternity with a fierce love for Christ. Do not let the entanglements and worries of today rob us of this most precious gift. The battle is coming to an end for us all. Quicker I believe than we think.

How awful it would be to arrive at the end of life's road and find out and find out we have not brought our heart for God with us. LIFE IS NOT A GAME. Life is a desperate quest through dangerous country to a destination beyond our wildest hopes. A wonderful place that is so good. Only in conceiving our days in this way can we find safety in this life.

I continue to be stunned by the level of deadness that many consider normal and seem contented to live in it. No a thousand times no. Before us is true life and we will see Jesus as He is and enjoy Him forever soon. Doesn't that put a fire in your soul to live above this mundane existence and live a life truly sold out to God and what He has prepared for His children.

We carry with us a desire for adventure in God. Don't limit God in your life but step out and cry. Oh Lord, I want more of you. We are made in the image of God and we carry with us the desire for our true life of intimacy and adventure. This is a normal emotion for a child of God. Do not suffocate it but feed it until it matures in you. Those who ask will receive, God has promised.

What do we want? Don't forget the Pharisees. Their religious desires (not true spiritual desires) hindered them from seeing God when He was standing before them. When our faith and treasure in Christ becomes a dutiful burden it kills our heart for what is important in God. Let's not get more religious and bound by forms but let us open our hearts to a real work of God revealing eternity and setting our priorities for this brief moment we call this life.

As I think on these things my heart leaps and nothing else seems important other than being pleasing unto God and knowing Him and what He has planned for us for eternity. Lets bind our hearts together in this and one day we will sing a chorus together for eternity. I SAY AGAIN, I just can't wait to see you there dressed in white glorifying Jesus with me and enjoying what we were created for. For the first time true satisfaction, joy and completeness. Maranatha!

Clark