

Self-Examination: Comparison Kills

When you examine yourself, who are you comparing yourself to? Are you comparing yourself to Christ, or are you comparing yourself to someone else?

If you compare yourself to another human being, you are already where they are—you are both going to end up in the grave. Any time you compare yourself to someone else, you are serving that person as you are trying to model yourself after them.

2 Corinthians 10:12-13 – “Oh, don’t worry; we wouldn’t dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant! We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you.”

If you try to model yourself after another person, you will only ever go as far as that person. But you can go as far as God would have you go if you start emulating God. When you start trying to walk in the example that Christ set for us, you have help becoming holy as he is holy.

Psalms 73:1-3 – “Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.”

When we follow Christ, our journey doesn’t end in the grave. Our bodies might turn to dust, but our spirits will spend eternity with God.

Galatians 1:10 – “Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.”

If you are modeling yourself after a person, you are not in service to God. If you are modeling yourself after Christ, then you are in service to Christ.

You might be trying to be a good person. You might be trying to emulate your pastor or the heroes of the Bible, but in order to truly serve God, you need to follow his model, not man’s. Do not work to gain other people’s approval; do good works in humble service to the Lord.

By following other people, you are only stifling yourself. When you compare yourself to other people, you are trying to follow a path that wasn’t meant for you. You have your own path which God designed specifically for you.

Ephesians 5:6-7 – “Don’t be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don’t participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!”

You have greatness within you. Walk in the path God has set before you. No, it won’t be easy. People might laugh at you—leave them where they are. This path belongs to you and you alone. You have to follow your own path; you cannot follow anyone else’s path.