

Image is Everything Matt 22: 15-22; Col 3: 1-11; Gen.1:26-27; 1 Cor. 11:23

The word of the Lord is a mirror. May we look into it and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what needs to change in us so that we can be more like Jesus.

Who's image am I reflecting? Who's image are we reflecting? To neglect the person of the Holy Spirit is to neglect God himself.

Prior to coming to Jesus we promote ourselves. The world is looking for hope; as a person of Living Way, hope and care should trigger something different in our minds. Hope should trigger the hope on open up press in and express Him values that we have, and care should remind us of our coaching, adoring, relating and expressing Him pillars of our church. Regardless of what we are doing, we need to be expressing Jesus Christ. If we are not expressing Him, we are just hopping around, spinning our wheels.

Our job as Christians, as the church, is to pray. The victory that comes is because people pray. If we are not seeing the victory it's because we are not committed to prayer, it doesn't fit into our agenda. Seeking God will never fit in without a struggle because according to **Rom. 12**, it's a sacrifice. When His disciples couldn't find Jesus it was because He was somewhere praying. How often do we sacrifice our time, or comfort to pray for someone? Do we have a place where we can go to be alone with God? If we're not praying, we're not expressing Jesus. It's not about us and our comfort, this is not the church of you and me, it's the church of Jesus Christ so it's all about Him, He need to be the focal point.

We need to become **IPM REPS**. Intentional Personal involvement in the Mission. What is the main mission of the church; to become like Jesus. Though we are called to make disciples, that is not our main focus. Jesus sometimes sent the people away so that He could pray. Making disciples will be a natural extension of becoming more like Him. There needs to be an inflow before there can be an outflow. There needs to be an intimacy. **Gen. 3:8**. God's intention is for us to spend time with Him each day. We are created in God's image, to have fellowship with Him, but sin has hidden and tried to remove it. When we are born again that image is restored, but the enemy of our soul doesn't give up without a fight; he keeps trying to bring back the old nature. Who's image am I stamped with, the world or Jesus'? Do we debate whether we are going to honour God or not? Wickedness! We need to relinquish the throne of our heart. Give to God what is God's. we are all called to be IPM REPS. Not "I Promote Me" but "I Promote the Mission" and the mission is becoming more like Jesus. Because of sin we exchange the image of God for the image of what we are seeking after. Rom. 1:24-28. When our first pursuit is something other than God, that is what others see in us, even though we may be born again. What are we pursuing? Is it our career, is it money?

What do others see in us? Where is our passion for God today as opposed to when we first were saved? Does He still occupy the throne of our hearts or have we taken it back? Do we have a form of godliness but deny it's power? Have we grown lukewarm?

A newborn baby has done nothing to deserve its parent's love, yet we think that we have to do something to earn God's love. It can't be earned or bought. It's offered freely. We do things because we have received that love. 1 John 4:19

How do we be a Jesus rep, how do we represent the mission? How do we intentionally offer ourselves to the mission of Jesus, which is to form and transform us into His image? Do we desire to become more like Jesus? By **remembering** what Jesus did for us. In one year from now will we be more like Jesus or less? Will real plowing happen for the extension of His Kingdom? We need to **examine** ourselves daily and see if we are measuring up. If we are we will have a life that **proclaims** Jesus Christ. The best thing anyone has to offer is the inward beauty of Jesus; a godly character. Outward attractiveness fades but the inward grows day by day, week by week. Look past the outward appearance to what is inside. What is our life proclaiming? Do we dare ask those around us to tell us what they see? May they see Jesus.