

In Whose Image?

R12.2 December Blog

These things you have done *and* I kept silent;
You thought that I was *just* like you;
I will rebuke you and present *the case* before your eyes.
~ Psalm 50:21 ~

I am currently reading the book of Psalms. I'm not reading them straight through. I'm following a kind of crazy method of doing it. With that said, my reading for yesterday was Psalm 50.

I encourage you to take a minute now to read Psalm 50 (it is only 23 verses); get a feel for the flow of the Psalm.

In verses 17-21 God is speaking to the wicked. In verses 17-20, the psalmist lists things we have all been guilty of at one time or another:

- We hate discipline
- We cast His words behind us (I ignore them)
- We associate with adulterers
- We let our mouths loose in evil
- We use our tongues to frame deceit
- We speak against our brothers (in Christ)

All these lead to verse 21, which starts with this phrase, "These things you have done *and* I [God] kept silent."

The psalmist notices God's silence and assumes that since God is silent, he must be okay in His eyes.

God addresses that thought in the next phrase of verse 21, "You thought that I was just like you." (NASB 1995).

Another translation reads, "and you thought I didn't care." (NLT)

I read that verse. Then I read it again. And again. I sat in silence as I considered the words of that verse and the verses that led up to it. The idea that sometimes I hated discipline (v 17) was true of me. Did I sometimes read God's Word and just leave it behind me (v 17)? Yes. Do I associate with adulterers (v 18)? I did. Did my tongue ever frame deceit (v 19)? Yes. Was my mouth ever let loose in evil (v 19)? Yes. Do I speak against my brothers in Christ (v 20)? I had before, yes.

By the grace of God, I have overcome some of those things and others are still a struggle. But the reality is, left to myself, I can fall back into those bad habits. And God makes it clear, that is not acceptable.

When I am having a really difficult day, I can forget that I am supposed to be changing to be more like Him.

That is **VERY** different than assuming He is like me as verse 21 says.

Thankfully, God is not like me!

He is to be my standard in ALL things (Matthew 5:48). I am striving to be like Him.

If I am falling short of His standard, it is on me. I must confess my sins, ask for His forgiveness, and pray for His wisdom and guidance in my life continually.

The last thing I want to do is to get so comfortable with God that I assume He is just like me and that He is okay with me just the way I am.

Ephesians 4:20-24 says this, "But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." (NASB95)

My Prayer: God help me to strive to be like you in all things, at all times and in all circumstances. For Your sake. Amen.