

## Looking Inward

There is a solid Biblical concept that says we should love other people – and, we should follow this prodigal - despite the imperfections we see in the lives of these others. 1 John 3:11 states it like this: *“This is the message we have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.”*

I believe this concept of loving others is pure and solid, but; it best starts by looking at yourself. You cannot fully love others until you fully look at yourself. Jesus said it like this in Matthew 7: *“How can you think of saying, ‘Let me help you get rid of the speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye?”* (NLT)

Jesus knows you. He knows that you can never properly see (judge) and love other people, until you properly see and love yourself.

Other scholars and saints before me have implied the concept using words like these:

“We tend to see what we are looking for.”

“Your internal attitude is more valuable than external circumstances.”

“External beauty cannot hide internal ugliness.”

“Loving and valuing ourselves makes it possible to truly love and value another.”

“To believe the truth is to see ourselves as God sees us, precious and honored, lovable and loved.”

What a challenge. Looking at what may be the truth of your own shortcoming is never easy. But the effort and the journey are worth it. This progressive journey can produce much fruit in your own life, as you grow in understanding who you are in Christ; and it may grow into much fruit for others as you learn to really love them because of the growth you have had in yourself. Both processes of this successful journey - can be an experience of transformation, to be like Jesus - for you and for others.

This journey can be a growing experience of transformation for you, and for the other people living in your world. Both follow the Biblical concept; and both, best begin by looking inward.

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