



Read

2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new thing

Genesis 1:27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Review

10 Signs you need a makeover...

1. Using God to run from God: this happens when I create a great deal of "God activity" in order to avoid difficult areas in my life that God wants to change.
 - Do God's work to satisfy me, not Him.
 - Demonstrate "Christian behaviors" so significant people approve of me.
 - Do things in God's name He never asked me to do.
 - Use Biblical truth to judge and devalue others.
 - Use scripture to justify parts of my relationships, cultural values, national policies, rather than evaluating them under God's lordship.
 - Apply biblical truths selectively to avoid anything that would require making significant life changes.
2. Ignoring anger, sadness, and fear
 - Many Christians believe wholeheartedly that anger, sadness, and fear are sins to be avoided.
 - To feel is to be human.
3. Dying to the wrong things
 - We are to die to the sinful parts of who we are...
Defensiveness, Arrogance, Stubbornness, Rudeness

Not our good parts... friendship, joy, art, beauty,

4. Denying the impact of the past on the present
 - If you have never sorted through some of your past, this is probably you.
 - While it's true that when we give our lives to Jesus, our sins are wiped away and we are given a new identity, new future, new life... it does not mean that our past won't continue to influence us in different ways.
5. Dividing life into "secular" and "sacred" compartments
 - "Evangelical Christians are as likely to embrace lifestyles every bit as hedonistic, materialistic, self-centered, and sexually immoral as the world in general." - Gallup & sociologists.
6. Doing for God instead of being with God
7. Spiritualizing away conflict
 - Nobody likes conflict, yet conflict is everywhere.
8. Covering over brokenness, weakness, and failure
 - The Bible does not spin the flaws of and weaknesses of its heroes.
9. Living without limits
10. Judging other people's spiritual journey
 - Us vs. them.
 - Inside vs. outside.
 - Leads to an inability to receive from ordinary, less mature people than ourselves. We only receive from experts and professionals.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on... But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of... One He intends to come and live in Himself."

Reflect

1. It's easy to clean someone else's mess, hard to clean our own. Digging deep requires a whole new set of tools. Which of the 10 signs struck your heart the hardest?

2. Bringing forward the best and leaving the rest is the goal, but how do we put the past down and leave it there?

3. CS Lewis' quote about 'a living house' can really change how we think of ourselves. Are we truly ready to give God "permission" to remake us? What has to happen along the way to get us ready?