

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
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THE DANGER OF THINKING TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELF

Human beings have a huge capacity for self-delusion. The Scottish poet, Robert Burns, wrote a famous poem about this entitled “To A Louse (On Seeing One On A Lady’s Bonnet at Church).” In the poem he pictures a woman, strutting to church decked out in frills and finery, convinced that she is cutting a grand figure. But the sophisticated image she aims for is spoiled by a pesky louse crawling through the lace of her bonnet! The poem closes with some memorable lines (somewhat translated):

“O, that some Power the gift would give us
To see ourselves as others see us!”

What could we need more? The Bible urges: “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment” (Romans 12:3 NIV).

In order to see ourselves realistically we must “In humility receive the implanted word . . . “(James 1:23-25.

True Christianity means:

SERVE, even when we are not being served.

LOVE, even when we may not be loved.

HELP, even when we have not been helped.

GIVE, even when we have not received.

PLEASE, even if others do not please us.

Romans 12:3-8 (NASB)

3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to

the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Robert Burn's story can really hit home in our lives. We have lived our lives at times thinking we could fool others, when all along they could see right through us. Why do we think we can fool others and why do we try to in the first place? What is the purpose of such actions?

The Bible warns us of thinking too highly of ourselves. It is ok to value what God has given you, but we need to always remember that it is He who has given us our abilities, skills, gifts, and a mind to use for others. When was the last time you sat down and really evaluated your life? Have you wondered what others think of you? Do you care what others think of you? Is that important?

The Bible is such a good book. Within the pages of the Holy Scriptures we learn who we are and who God is. We learn what God expects of us and most of all, that He is greater than us. It is that position that we must learn and maintain. When we get to thinking too highly of ourselves we tend to push God away and replace Him with ourselves, our wants, our poor thinking.

Did you notice in verse three of our text that we have been given a measure of faith? Faith is not equal in all of us. Some have greater faith than others. I am thankful for those who have gone before us and especially those of great faith. Some people have been gifted by God to help bring along the rest of us. They help us see the possibilities and encourage us to stretch and grow into all we can be. There have been many people in my past and several in the present that help me to continue to grow and learn so that I can help others. I am thankful for these folks that God has brought across my path.

It is easy to forget that we need others to accomplish what needs to be done. I have spent the last several days in the hospital and have had plenty of time to reflect upon my life. There were restrictions I had to follow that left me dependant on others in many ways. I am thankful for their help and service. It is easy to forget that we are not in charge. When we let God have first place and learn from Him we are then ready to be used of Him to help others. When we keep all of this in balance we become useful servants of the Living God and a benefit to our fellowman.

So What Should We Do? What skills and gifts has God given you? What are you doing with them? Are you other centered or self centered? Is God in charge of your life or are you running the show? Do you think you are better than others,

or are you part of God's plan and need others to help you accomplish the task? We all need to stop, think, meditate, and consider our position with God. We need to lift Him up and put him first. We need to think of others and their needs and more often than not put them before ourselves. It is ok to think well of yourself, but it is not ok to get the big head and think too highly of yourself. So, what will you do about your position with God and man?

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