



## How do you represent Christ?

How do you represent Christ in the world? How would a person describe you physically and interpersonally? Are you living your life by the word or is it being regurgitated in a façade manner? During this time of fasting much prayer is needed for self examination and discernment.

"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

When looking at the outer man/woman we begin to interpret and perceive how they are in their life. Let me explain- I see a neat put together man in a business suit, nice trendy shoes with no scuffs, a bishop collar, cufflinks, clean and smelling fresh. Someone's perception may be, he is a man of God, he has everything together, and his life must be in order. STOP! Don't let vain thoughts or your own personal interpretation of the outer man reflect what may be standing before you. See the devil will trick us in believing the outer reflects the inner being of a person. I am not stating this person is not a man of God, but just to look at the outward appearance can be a façade. Go deeper spiritually. Putting on what looks good does not wash away the deception and malice stirring inside. The heart of a godly person will shine through brighter than any pair of new Louis Vuitton shoes. A person can stunt and front (using slang terms) any day, but playing with fire will get you burned. Get to know the whole man.

What is a façade? -The front of a building; also: any face of a building given special architectural treatment <a museum's east facade>; a false, superficial, or artificial appearance or effect (The Merriam-Webster).

These definitions represent an image we can view and interpret from the surface. When looking at the front of a building does it let you know what the inside represents. Can you judge a church just from the front outer structure? What is the body (the people) representing spiritually? Are they living in the spirit and feeding the soul as Christ ordains or are they just looking to have the church filled? We all want things as perfect structure architecturally and physically because the world has taught us to look at the outward appearance. Don't get a false representation based on worldly views or personal perception, go deeper as Christ does for you.



# Represent Christ inside and out...

During this time for the 21 days of fasting, seek the Lord for discernment and peace within yourself to be built from the inside out, as representatives of Christ. When we pray and fast we are cleansing ourselves and opening ourselves to hear the voice of God by resisting the world's desires (food, media). By fasting and staying in the word of God with prayer, we hear the voice of God and clean up the inner man to match our outer appearance without being a facade. This is a time to change by seeking the Lord whole-heartedly. "Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight. Stop doing wrong" Isaiah 1:16.

In reflection, begin to go deeper than the world based on outward appearances and/or how a person may represent a superficial character of self. Get into the truth of God spiritually. Study the word, pray, and be faithful to God. No more playing church as a façade. This is the time represent Christ inside and out.

I leave you to reflect personally:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sister, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will". Romans 12 1:1-2

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