

The Microscope

Part One - Living Under the Microscope

Note - I have dressed my child to go out in public in a garbage bag! (Don't judge me - you don't know the story.)

Matthew 7:1-2,

1 Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Many feel like they live under a microscope.

Example - Interacting with people in public (especially women).

Three Things to Consider Under the Microscope

1. How can I alter this?

Matthew 7:3-5

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye, 'when all the time there is a plank in your

own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Example - The little boy in the cave.

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Example - The man who wanted his windshield clean.

2. How can I learn from this?

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Note - A microscope doesn't make something bigger, it just makes it appear bigger.

Note - Are we comfortable with our sin as long as no one knows about it? Satan would have you reject, retaliate, resent someone pointing out your faults.

God would have you reflect, repent and respond to what has been pointed out.

3. How can God get glory from this?

Note - My sense of worth doesn't come from *my* perfection, it comes from His!

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Example - Tears & testimonies

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The best way to stay out from the microscope of others is to stay under a microscope of your own.

James 5:13-15

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Note - We live dysfunctional, unhealthy lives simply because we will not be honest with God, ourselves and others about our struggles.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves.