**Becoming who God wants me to be – Part 4 of 6**

**Romans 12:3-8**

**Looking Inward to Discover the Real Me.**

How do we discover what God’s good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:1-2)? We look inward.

Looking inward allows us cry out with a sense of openness toward God, as David did in Psalm 139:23, *“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Looking inward takes courage

* To embrace the truth that even when weaknesses are discovered you are still “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14).

Looking inward requires intentional time.

* If we do not create intentional rhythms of space of silence and solitude, we never give God the opportunity to speak into our lives. We move on too quickly and assume God had nothing to say or reveal to us.

The danger becomes when we begin to look inward is we assume that begins from same starting point and perspective. However, most people approach their faith from two different perspectives.

Genesis 3

* Begins with the fall of humanity
* Understand the seriousness of sin
* Struggles with their value and worth

Genesis 1

* Begins with the Imago Dei (Image of God)
* Better understands the grace of God
* Struggles with the impact of their sin

Guided Questions:

1. Do you view yourself from a Genesis 1 or 3 perspective?
2. What experiences in your life have confirmed and supported your perspective?
3. How has this perspective been nurtured by how you were raised in your family of origin?

The challenge is to recognize that both frameworks are necessary and important in our spiritual transformation. **We are BOTH good (Gen 1) and broken (Gen 3).** For each of these frameworks, we need to learn from the other.

**If you approach your faith with a Genesis 1 framework,** Paul is inviting you to recognize that each person has something valuable to contribute. **(**Romans 12:3-5) Your actions steps are to look inward and be willing to embrace a posture of humility so that you can journey with others, learning and growing together.

**If you approach your faith with a Genesis 3 framework**, Paul is encouraging you to contribute. (Romans 12:6-8). Your actions steps are to look inward and recognize you have gifts that you need to contribute that are essential to the overall vitality of the kingdom of God.

As we embrace both frameworks, we discover that the same outcome is present. Looking inward is to help us so we can impact and reach outward to bless and equip others.We can only grow into emotionally mature adults if we are able to look inward, discover what’s under the surface and be willing to allow God’s transforming grace to work, refine, and chip away areas so that we can be fully free to love others well.