

Eyes that See the Best in People
Matthew 22:34-40

Two times I've visited Churchill's Underground Bunker in London, England. I consider it to be the finest WWII museum in all of England and Europe. As one enters the museum portion of the underground bunker there is a quote from Churchill in big, white, block letters. **We Are All Worms, But I Believe I Am.** The quote didn't fit with what I knew of Churchill. Nor is it a quote I think appropriate for a man of honor, integrity and confidence. Then, as I came back through the museum on my way out, I discovered there were two additional words that were hidden from view. I caught them as I was walking out of the museum:

We Are All Worms, But I Believe I Am A Glowworm

The last two words changed the entire meaning of the sentence. A glowworm is a very special worm. Do you see something special in yourself? Do you see the best in yourself and in others? Grace always does. "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (I Cor. 13:7). Eyes of grace see the best in others. Eyes of grace view others in the best light. Eyes of grace are full of love for others.

I. The only way you'll love others is to truly love yourself – "Love your neighbor as yourself" (v. 39).

Now I know that most Christian teachers try to make you think you are nothing but a worm; a vile, wretched sinner that causes God to want to puke when He thinks of you. I know that the church tries to ingrain within you a feeling that you must perform to get God to like you. Because of the dogmatic assertion that you are worthless, those with "spiritual authority" demand your moral conformity. But according to Jesus, you can't really love others and see the best in them until you love yourself. When captivated by God's love for me, I become a person sure of His unconditional, radical love. Don't be fooled. *There's a big difference between loving yourself and demanding others love you.* Loving yourself means you're free from the pressure that others love you. God's grace gives you that.

II. To love yourself is to know that God sees worth in you – "Love the Lord your God" (v. 37).

How does that happen? How do you love God? "We love Him because He first loved us" (I John 4:19). Hang your hat on this: *If God Himself came to die for you, if God Himself gave His life for you, if God Himself shed His blood to redeem you, if God Himself—the God who flung the stars and holds earth in its orbit—if this God deemed you worthy of coming to earth, fulfilling the Law in your place, dying in your stead because of your sin, then the love of this God in the death of Jesus should be enough to convince you that you are indeed someone very special to God Himself. You'll only be captivated God's love when overwhelmed with the value, worth and dignity of your personhood.*

III. To see the best in others is to see the worth of their personhood – "Love your neighbor" (v. 39).

When you love yourself deeply, you can love others radically. You know who God is to you; and you become God to others. Your mind thinks in terms of the principles of grace; and your mouth and eyes speak and see in terms of grace. There's nobody in your life that is beyond the reach of grace.

A. Focus on that person being created in God's image. "God created man in His image" (Gen. 1:27).

The image of God is not so much something that *a person* bears as it is something that *a person is*. Every person is created by God to be a "copy" or the 3-D "graphic image" of the Creator; a formal, visible, and understandable representation of who God is and how He relates to the Creation.

B. Realize that lostness is a disconnect from the God of all grace. The fall of man marred God's image. Loius Berkhof says, "But this image makes mankind unique."

C. Be that person who connects a lost person to the grace of God.