

Thought for the Day

Tuesday 14th July 2020

There's a new series of programmes on the TV. I think it's all about fashion, which doesn't interest me very much. But I am more than a little disturbed by its title. "You are what you wear". The problem is, that's a lie. Despite all the aggressive propaganda by the fashion police, the shaming of people because of their weight or the ridiculing people for wearing last year's colours or styles, we are not defined by what we wear. I need to be clear here. I am not decrying dressing smartly or taking pride in your appearance. But some people seem to believe that by spending thousands of pounds not only on clothes, but also on cosmetic surgery, getting things tightened, lifted, enlarged, reduced or tucked, is the way to be liked, loved and popular.

Of course we all want to be loved, it's a basic need within us. People try all sorts of strategies to make people love them, to earn approval, to be in with the crowd. Dressing to impress or to please is one of those strategies. But dressing in a certain way or seeking perfection in your body shape is not a successful strategy for being liked or loved. It doesn't work. There may be some initial, limited success but a relationship based on how you look is shallow and will not survive the inevitable trials which life involves.

The pity is of course that these people, obsessed by looks, are already loved and they don't need to do anything to earn it or change anything to receive it, or pretend to be something they are not to be accepted. They just don't realise it. God loves each one of us as His children. He loves us to bits. John writes "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us" (1 John 3:1). Lavished is an extravagant, generous, bountiful word. In His love for us there's no holding back, there's no end to it. We read in Psalm 139 that He has known us since before we were born, He knows everything about us, even our thoughts, nothing is hidden from Him. That means he also knows the very worst about us, the things we wouldn't want anyone to find out about, things we are ashamed of. He knows us 'warts and all' as they say. The amazing thing is that despite that, He loves us still.

His love for us is constant, everlasting and committed. In fact we read that He loved us so much that He was prepared to die for us. As Paul wrote "The Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 3:20). Loved me gave himself for me. Wow, that's amazing. You might say that you'd love to be loved like that. Well you are! God loves you to bits, He's nutty about you and is always working for the very best for you. If you've never realised that before I encourage you to find out about the love God has for you. But I know that many who read 'Thought of for the day' will already know this. Can I encourage you never to take this love for granted, but remind yourself at the beginning of every day that you are a child of God and deeply loved by Him.

"You are what you wear"? Tosh. What you are is a child of God and are loved by Him with an extravagant, tireless, unlimited, inexhaustible love. And He really doesn't care what you wear!

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