

Spiritual Optometry

Human Sight/ How we see through our human nature.

- Summertime is upon us and there is a tendency to dress lighter and in less material. But as we have put away the winter clothing and the coverage it provided, let's not put so much of it away that we offend others by causing someone to lust with their eyes.

Mat 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

- There have actually been instances where supposed Christian women have stated that their apparel was not to be decided by what others felt was inappropriate. “*Shame on them for looking!*” is usually their response.

Jer 18:15 Because My people hath forgotten Me, they have burned incense (*Heb.6999- to smoke, that is, turn into fragrance by fire [especially as an act of worship]*) to vanity (*Heb.7723- in the sense of desolating; evil*), and they have **caused them to stumble in their ways** from the ancient paths (*Heb.7635- a track or passage way [as if flowing along]*), to walk in paths (*Heb.5410- a [beaten] track*), in a way not cast up (*Heb.5549-exalted*);

- **Any** scantily clad women in public who call themselves Christians have forgotten what godliness is! Whether they **have** something to show or **not!** I personally don't want to commit the sin of lust, but I also don't care to be disgusted either by the type of attitude of those who think they have something to show when they don't! The Bike Fest is in town so you can only imagine how some of the “biker chicks” are dressed. It is as though they are flaunting their evil and pernicious ways. They are going down the wrong road and are causing others, through their own vanity, to follow along with them.

Rom 1:32 ... knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death (“*the second death [i.e.-the lake of fire]*” of Rev 21:8), not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

- “*Oh but I don't participate in their sin. I'm not like that*” is what you may hear someone say. But to look with lust is, in a sense, promoting lewd behavior. Notice what Paul wrote to Timothy on this subject.

1Ti 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest (*Gk.2886- orderly, that is, decorous*) apparel, with shamefacedness (*Gk.127- bashfulness*) and sobriety (*Gk.4997- self-control*); not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

- Clothing and hair styles that draw attention to oneself, no matter how plain or extravagant, still draw attention. The woman who dons a bikini in public might get more attention than the woman who is following her religion by being totally clad from head to toe, but **both** are still drawing attention. As Christians, we are not to participate in either form of dress but are to choose what best fits a pattern of modesty that shows our Godly lifestyle. And men are not to be going about shirtless in public either because, contrary to puritan thought, women also have the ability, and thus tendency, to lust. But

statistically, men more so. I recently saw a guy at the square of Carlisle who must have felt he was God's gift to women the way he was strutting his shirtless body as though posing in a contest. There should be a law that states a person should have to cover a certain percentage of their body in order to be legal for public display. *(Isn't it sad that if a woman wore her undergarments in public she might get arrested but if the same woman wore a string bikini, that covers a lot less, the only thing she might get would be ogled?)*

1Jn 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Gal 5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (*Gk.4561- human nature*).

Spiritual Sight

2Co 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

- Once our “spiritual sight” is corrected, we are on the road to correcting our “human sight” when it comes to lust. It doesn't mean we automatically have 20/20 vision either because the tempter is always nearer to the ones he's lost.

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Joh 9:39 And Jesus said, **For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.** 40 And *some* of the Pharisees which were with Him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41 Jesus said unto them, **If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.**

- To “see” in this context is to understand good and evil. A child, then, is to be understood as blind to the understanding of right and wrong and is thus safe from being judged.

Mat 19:14 ... **for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**

- Now on the other hand, as adults, we know better. We have matured to the point of being able to discern the difference between good and evil. So there's no excuse. The **Pharisees** felt they knew the law better than the **One Who** gave it and even today there are many “religious” folk who feel they have **all** the answers without first going to the word of **God** for the real truth on whatever subject. **Jesus** considers them “**blind**” just as **He** did the religious leaders of **His** day. Which is why we are to test every doctrine.

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit (*Gk.4151- vital principle*), but try (*test*) the spirits **whether they are of God**: because many false prophets (*Gk.5578- religious imposter*) are gone out into the world.

- In another incident when **Jesus** rebuked the **Pharisees** **His** disciples, knowing the **Pharisees'** authority and status among the people, questioned **Him**. They didn't want to ruffle the feathers of such a “powerful” group of **Jewish** leaders.

Mat 15:12 Then came His disciples, and said unto Him, Knowest Thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? 13 But He answered and said, **Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. 14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.**

Luk 7:23 **And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me.**

Mat 15:15 Then answered Peter and said unto Him, Declare unto us this parable. 16 And Jesus said, **Are ye also yet without understanding?**

- In yet another incident Jesus was speaking to a crowd of people that was so large He had to teach them from a boat. Once again His disciples questioned Him on why He spoke to them in parables.

Mat 13:13 **Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**

“The Pharisees, and Jews generally, were not prepared to receive the system (gospel), and would not have believed it, and therefore he purposely employed a kind of teaching which was intended for his apostles only.”
Albert Barnes

How to correct our spiritual vision today.

1Co 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

“The word perfect in 1Co 13:10 is the exact opposite of what was incomplete and partial (verse 9). ... Christianity began with basic facts of the faith. It took several years and several New Testament authors to complete the New Testament, but when the New Testament books were finished, Christians had the complete (the full and perfect) revelation of God’s will, so the spiritual gifts ceased.”
Gary Hampton

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

“Until the New Testament Scriptures were finished, people were like small children (11a). After the New Testament was completed, the “childish things” (spiritual gifts, 11b) were removed and Christians used the perfect word of God (compare Jam 1:25). The word perfect here in verse 10 is just another description for the truth (Joh 17:17),...”
Gary Hampton

Joh 17:17 **Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.**

Jas 1:23 For if any be a hearer of **the word**, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: 24 For he beholds himself, and goes his way, and

straightway forgets what manner of man he was. **25** But whoso looks into the **perfect law of liberty**, and **continues therein**, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

“So, in contrast to the one who glances in the mirror and does nothing about the things he sees which are amiss, we have one who carefully examines himself intending to correct every flaw.”
Gary Hampton

- When we examine ourselves through a “spiritual” mirror, we see ourselves as **God sees us**. Once as lost and dying and in need of a **Savior** but, after putting **Christ** on in baptism, now as found and alive, striving to be like **Him**.

Once blind, do we now see?

Mat 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote (*splinter*) that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? **4** Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? **5** Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou **see clearly** to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

- How often have you noticed someone giving guidance to another person on any given topic, only to know that the person giving the instructions hasn't followed their own advice. They are not “seeing” clearly.

Pro 29:11 A fool utters **all** his mind: but a wise *man* keeps it in till afterwards.

- Better to remain silent and thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt. Before any of us can give spiritual advice on any given **Biblical** subject we need first to understand what we're talking about. Give a person who thinks they know everything enough time and sooner or later they'll show otherwise. There are always those who speak as the devil's advocate. They look for mistakes that we might make in our understanding, crediting our lack of knowledge to **Biblical** inaccuracy. But there is a cure for that.

Heb 5:11 ... we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. **12** For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. **13** For every one that useth milk *is* unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. **14** But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who **by reason of use have their senses exercised** to discern both good and evil.

- One of the ways we can correct our spiritual vision is to first adjust the level of our hearing. How often have we heard of the necessity of personal **Bible** study? It is only through diligence in study that we will even begin to be into the meat of the word. And only then will we be able to recognize false teaching!

2Ti 2:15 Study (*make an earnest effort*) to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**. **16** But shun profane and vain babblings (*Gk.2757- fruitless discussion*): for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

 Pro 29:18 Where *there is* no vision (*Heb.2377- dream*), the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy (*Heb.835- blessed*) is he.

- Speaking to **Israel**, the writer of this Proverb is understood to have known their status with **God** by this statement. They were losing their dream. But are we any different? Are we losing the dream (*our focus*) of existing eternally with our **Lord** in the promised land (*a.k.a. Heaven*)?
- Have you ever kicked yourself for being too late for something **really** important. **That feeling!** That's the last thing you will want to feel if you are watching while others are ascending to **Jesus** and you are not. But you know it doesn't have to be that way...

1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

#1. Have you heard?

Romans 10:14 ..."how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**"

#2. Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to **God must believe that He is** and that He is a rewarder of them that **diligently** seek Him."

#3. Have you repented?

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
 Act 3:19 ..."Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Joh 14:6 **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.**

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Grow

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

*Charli Yana
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