

## TRUE REFLECTIONS

TEXT: (Proverbs 27:19, NIV)

<sup>19</sup> As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.

### INTRODUCTION

1. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26, NIV).
2. "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (II Corinthians 3:2, NIV).
3. "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3).

### I. THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

#### A. A Reflection of Your Heart

1. "But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (I Peter 2:20-21, NIV).
2. "‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.’ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly" (I Peter 2:22-23, NIV).
3. Jesus "went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil" (Acts 10:38, NIV).

#### B. Becoming an Example of Christ

1. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36, NIV).
2. "Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him" (Matthew 20:34, NIV).
3. "Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man" (Mark 1:41, NIV).
4. "When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, 'Don't cry'" (Luke 7:13-14).
5. "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5, NIV).

### II. THE IMPACT OF THE CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE

#### A. The Salt of the Earth

1. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men" (Matthew 5:13, NIV).
2. "And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy"(I Corinthians 7:13-14, NIV).
3. "But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men" (Matthew 5:13, NIV).

## B. The Light of the World

1. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14, NIV).
2. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6, NIV).

## C. Your Life Is Read by Those Around You

1. "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (James 1:27, NIV).
2. "Pure and unblemished religion [as it is expressed in outward acts] in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit *and* look after the fatherless and the widows in their distress, and to keep oneself uncontaminated by the [secular] world" (James 1:25, AMP).
3. "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart" (Proverbs 27:19, NIV).

## III. THE EXAMPLE OF THE CHURCH

### A. Mutual Respect between Leadership and Laity

1. "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Hebrews 13:17, NIV).
2. "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock" (I Peter 5:2-3, NIV).

### B. Service for One Another

1. "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2, NIV).
2. "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up" (Romans 15:1-2, NIV).

### C. Genuine Worship to the Lord

1. "I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders" (Psalm 9:1, NIV).
2. "I will thank the LORD with all my heart as I meet with his godly people" (Psalm 111:1, NLT).
3. "But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, 'God is truly here among you'" (I Corinthians 14:24-25, NIV).

## CONCLUSION

1. "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life" (Philippians 2:14-16, NIV).