

Mirror, mirror, on the Wall**2Corinthians 3:18**

It's hard to find hero's today--role models for kids to grow up w/ & emulate. Not too long ago heros were everywhere. From sports figures to movie stars. Kids wanted to be like their favorite matinee idol or sports hero—clean, wholesome, well-mannered, family values kind of man or woman. *Psych today mag--why so few heros*

Gene Autry, known as the '*singing cowboy*', died age 91 *1998 25yrs ago*. Popular in the 40's & 50's & into 60's--He made 95 movies, recorded 635 songs. He considered himself the baby sitter of three generations of children. He felt it was his duty to always put a moral & ethical message in his western movies.

Autry's '*Cowboy Code*' had eight rules. The first: 'The cowboy must never shoot first-never hit a smaller man-never take unfair advantage' Sounds *corny* w/ today's *drag queen story hour to children* or today's *raunchy rap & hip hop-sandys*. A generation ago the norm was good, wholesome, clean, innocent role models.

Today our culture seems to go from past scandals to present-day outrage. We are hard pressed to find role models we'd feel comfortable having kids emulate.

And yet every earthly hero has *feet of clay* & prone to fail. If you look long enough at those you admire, flaws bleed thru & in one way or another earthly hero's disappoint & let us down & if a Christian leader-we are stumbled in our faith & critical of the Church.

2 Cor 10:12...but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves w/ themselves, they are without understanding.

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We fail in our culture & Christian faith because we set our sights too low-following people who are impressive, dynamic, charismatic, Hero's. Suddenly, the one you **hoped in** & **wanted to be like**, fails miserably & disappoints completely. We aim too low setting sights on human vessels. Setting ourselves up for a fall. Apostle Paul said follow me even as I follow Christ. We become like the ones we follow.

A.Barnes-It is a law of our nature that we are molded in our moral feelings by the persons w/ whom we associate & by the objects which we study. We become unwittingly conformed to those w/ whom we have social contact & to the objects w/ which we are familiar. We absorb the opinions, we copy the habits, we imitate the manners, we fall into ritual customs of those w/ whom we have daily conversation & whom we make our companions & friends. Their attitudes inertly become our attitudes & their ways our ways. It is so w/ the books we are familiar. We are insensibly, but certainly molded into conformity to the opinions, maxims, & feelings which they express. Our own sentiments undergo a gradual change, & we are likened to those w/ which in this manner we are conversant.

We become like those we follow. **Bad company corrupts good morals...**but I believe the converse is true that **good company influences good morals**.

David followed Saul **until** spears were thrown at him. Paul partnered w/ Demas **until** he went back into the world. Jesus mentored Judas **until** he betrayed him. Of necessity, we must become disappointed by people so that we are free to trust Christ alone.

Whatever the master passion of our life-that is our god & we become like the god we serve. If a false god we become phony.

Ps 115:4-8 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of man's hands 7 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; 6 They have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell;7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; they have feet, but they cannot walk; they cannot make a sound with their throat.8 Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them.

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The only hero worthy of setting our sights on is Jesus *'fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith....'*

It is good for kids to have **positive** role models but the time comes to put aside lesser role model for greater-Jesus. **1Cor 13:11** *When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

Looking to Jesus the author and finisher..... **Some live vicariously thru others & look down on themselves.** Jesus said *'Look unto me and be saved...for I am God and beside me there is none other*

Some have such a poor self-image they wish that there were two of somebody else & none of them. But God made you a unique person, only one of you, *fearfully and wonderfully made, great are His works.* The mold was broken. You find your true identity & self-worth in Christ.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with **unveiled** face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

We unveiled, beholding- looks back to Moses—glory of God on face. Contrast w/ Christian glory--Moses glory (**legal-law**). Ours in mirror--the gospel of the glory of Christ

Transformed – **metamorphoo** – a process--being changed--from glory to glory. **Caterpillar**

From the Lord the spirit – H.S. is agent of change. Spirit of God working thru the word of God changing the people of God.

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

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1Thes 2:13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Moses glory – veiled & fading (**Law**) Ours lasting & permanent & greater (**Grace**)

As in a mirror – ancient mirrors were polished metal--reflecting images w/ great brilliance & distinction. The gospel radiates Gods glory as brilliant polished metal reflects light. No veil to hide or hinder.

The presence of God **in** people of God reflects light **of** God-transformed into the same image. ***'Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. 1 Cor 15:49***

Glory to glory – the more we behold the more we reflect back. ***Prov 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. Prov 27:19 As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man.***

2 Cor 4:5-7 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves;

Paul points out the limitation we experience being in this earthly body and the unlimited advantage we will have in heaven.

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.

In Paul's day windows were made of thin plates of horn or translucent stone split into thin sheets or scales. Our flawed human nature, worldly habits & carnality obscures Christ's image.

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Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Being conformed to world or Christ....your choice

When Leonardo da Vinci was painting his masterpiece 'The Last Supper', he looked long & hard for a model to depict Christ. At last he discovered a choir boy in one of the churches of Rome whose life & features resembled the innocence & purity he was looking for, his name was **Pietro Bandinelli**. Years passed & the painting was still unfinished. All the disciples had been portrayed except one, **Judas Iscariot**. Now he started looking for a man whose face was hardened & distorted by sin—at last he found a beggar on the streets of Rome w/ a face so villainous he shuddered when he looked at him. He hired the man to sit for him as he painted the face of Judas on the canvas. When he was about to dismiss the man he asked 'I have not yet found out your name.' the man replied 'I am Pietro Bandinelli I also sat for you as your model of Christ.'