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MORAL EXCELLENCE

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I think in a greater sense of the word we all understand the meaning of excellence. At least when it is applied to products or services or even people other than ourselves. There is a reason for ideas like product rating services, consumer protection services, Angie's list or any number of other means by which we recognize those who, in their own fields, have risen above their peers. Of course, the aforementioned means of measurement have something tangible to measure. A tool or kitchen appliance can be evaluated by how long it lasts or how often it fails. These types of things can be viewed in light of how many people like them or find them useful.

Measurement becomes much more iffy when seeking to rate thoughts and intentions of the heart. As a matter of fact, without external evidence, one person will never know what is in another's mind. Displays of emotion and behavior create patterns that can be rated or judged. The best judge of anyone's thoughts of course is the One who made us and then the next is the one doing the thinking. GOD, I have no question about, no doubt about, but I do have questions about my ability or anyone else's ability to see ourselves for what we really are, or better yet as GOD sees us.

How can we view and correct our substandard performance? How is it that we can stand back and see everything play out and recognize what went wrong and then fix it? This dilemma we are looking at here is, at least as I see it, why the Lord Jesus said "blessed are the poor in spirit", and "it is not those who are well who need a physician". We certainly see no urgency in fixing what is not broken. When strife and acrimony arise in our lives, it seems so much easier to place the blame on others rather than examining ones self. After all I have discussed this matter with myself and I have found reasons for my behavior, you on the other hand are just a jerk. Pr.12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but wise is he who listens to counsel. Also 21:2 Every mans way is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the motives.

When the apostle Paul wrote in the Ephesian letter in chapter 4 that we should lay aside all falsehood and speak truth each one with his neighbor it must be understood, truth starts at home, within ourselves. The Lord Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. What happens though, if we cannot see the truth, or like the famous line in the movie, we can't handle the truth. Second Thess. 2 gives the only reason anyone will ever be lost; they do not have a love of the truth so as to be saved. The truth has to matter, even if the truth comes down against us. Wanting the truth, even if it is painful, is what I understand the moral excellence of second Peter 3 to be. This is the foundation of every change we make in life and the only way possible for us to become more like GOD, and His Son Jesus. We must see ourselves the way They see us. The word of GOD can give us that insight depending on our degree of moral excellence.

I suppose if we cannot be honest with ourselves, we certainly cannot be with anyone else. How can anything so simple be so difficult?