

BEING KNOWN IN DIFFERENT WAYS

1 Samuel 16:7

Introduction: Many years ago there was a radio drama that came on every week and it was entitled, "I Led Three Lives..." The weekly series was about a man who worked in secret for the government and then had regular job and of course a family. Today that is not so strange as many people work at more than one job plus have a family, then there are those who keep secret the fact that they have another way of life that they don't want friends or family to know about. Did you ever think about how you are known? All of us are known in different ways, sort of like living a different lifestyle in different situations. Think about how you are known and how you live in these areas:

I. THE LIFE THE WORLDS KNOWS YOU BY

1. People in the world know you by your physical appearance, height, weight, hair color, skin color, male or female, (*1 Samuel 16:12*).
2. The world knows you in the way and manner you live as you pass through it day by day.
3. People look at you and notice how you are dressed, how you speak, how you act and react and they form their opinions of what they see and hear about you.

II. THE LIFE YOUR FRIENDS KNOW YOU BY

1. They know if you are helpful, thoughtful, stingy, short tempered, patient, etc.
2. Do they consider you to be a person to be respected, appreciated, responsible, trustworthy? Do they consider you to be a "spiritual" person? Your friends do know you in a way differently from the world, they know you better than the world does.

III. THE LIFE YOUR FAMILY KNOWS YOU BY

1. What do you think your relatives think about you? Those who know you real well?
2. Then there's your immediate family. They know you better than anybody else don't they. So what do you think your wife, husband, children, grandchildren think about you? They know how you "really" are don't they. They've heard and seen you be your "real, true" self.

IV. THE LIFE YOUR CHURCH KNOWS YOU BY

1. You do have a "different" life style when in church don't you? Not like when at work, not like when on vacation, not like when at home even, it is different isn't it.

2. Have you patterned your "church life style" after somebody else's? Do you compare your church life to somebody else in your church? Do you think you are more "religious" than somebody else you know in church? Do you ever talk about somebody you saw at church in a negative way?
3. As you have "noticed" others in your church and compared yourself to them, others have done the very same thing with you. It seems that everybody has a different life style when they go to church than they do anywhere else.
4. We need to be reminded that we already have an "example" to pattern our spiritual life after and that is our Lord Jesus. Anybody else has the same difficulties you and I do. Our church family knows us by the life we live when at church.

V. THEN THERE'S THE LIFE THAT GOD KNOWS YOU BY

1. Has God ever said of you what He said of Jesus, *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."*? Why not?
2. Jesus said, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in me, who walk not after the flesh but the Spirit..."* Where do you fit in on Jesus' remarks here?
3. Reputation is what others know you by and what you have led them to believe by how you have lived before and with them. Your family knows you better than any other person but God knows you even better than your family. God knows exactly what each of us really is. He knows what our true character is. Remember, God knows even our thoughts as well as every single thing we have ever said or done.

CONCLUSION:

1. God knows you. Do you know God?
2. Which life style is really the most important: What the world thinks about you? What your friends think about you? What your family thinks about you? What your Church thinks about you? Or what God thinks about you?
3. Which life style needs the most working on? Why?
4. Everybody is known by somebody but the most important person who knows you is God and what He thinks about you matters more than what all the others put together think.
5. Ever hear the hymn, "Give of Your Best to the Master?" Let's do that from this moment on.