



The "O:h Yeah!" Letter

Light and Mirrors

by Tim Loper

Have you ever been to a county fair and walked through the "house of mirrors"? Do you remember how funny, contorted, exaggerated and twisted some of the reflections were? Jesus is the Source of light. As Christians, we are commanded by God's Word to bring His Light to this crazy world we live in. Mirrors reflect light, they don't create it, they pass it on from the source. We are God's mirrors. The way the world gets God's Light is most often by seeing His light reflect off the mirror of a Christian's life.

The question we must answer is, do we as Christians accurately reflect God's light, or are we like the mirrors at the local county fair? Those mirrors are warped, bent, twisted and the reflection they give does not represent the real thing. However, if we look long enough at a reflection we can begin to think the reflection is the real thing, even if it is a distorted image. The same thing can happen if we have never seen the actual object. The world cannot directly see God, they only see Him through us. Christians can see God in His Word and by His Spirit in us.

Do we reflect an accurate image of God to those around us? Does the world see a skinny wimpy God, or a fat lazy God? Is His heart bigger than His head or the other way around? Do we reflect the totality of God's character, His Grace, Mercy, Holiness, Justice, His Love? Or do we reflect a twisted view of God? Because we are human, there will be flaws in the surface of our mirror and we will never be able to perfectly represent our Risen Lord to society or our families. However, we are commanded in the Word to work on our witness. Philippians 2:15-16 says, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of

continued on back



*Make your child more responsible by asking them questions such as: "Do you have the freedom to do that?" or "What needs to happen now?" Wean them from you telling them what to do and you'll feel less like a traffic cop!

*Why not ask your middle years children if there is anything you need to ask their forgiveness for?

*Another Father's Mandate: Demonstrate love for your wife. So, what are you planning for Valentine's Day?

Quotes Worth Remembering

Never promise something to a child and not give it to him, because in that way he learns to lie.

~The Talmud



Marriage

At this romantic time of the year, most couples (hope fully) focus on getting closer to each other. Did you know that the most effective way that you can grow closer and more intimate with your spouse is to grow closer and more intimate to the Lord? It's a proven fact that on fire Christian couples have more "on fire" marriages!

Think of it this way: if Jesus is the center of your marriage, every step you take closer to Him, is another step closer to your spouse! The more in line your relationship with Jesus is, the better every other relationship in your life will be. So maybe the next time you are contemplating the closeness of your marriage, ponder your intimacy with your Heavenly Father.

A Parenting Treasure from the Word



"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may discern what is best..." Philippians 1:9-10. We need to grow in knowledge regarding our children and our spouses so that we may love them more completely and effectively!

♥ FUN IDEA OF THE QUARTER

Several years ago, our family came across an idea that has become a priceless treasure. We call it our "Valentine Box." We wrapped and decorated a shoe box and cut a slot in the separately wrapped lid. One evening, several weeks prior to Valentine's Day, we all cut out hearts from colored construction paper and place them in a bowl. Over the next weeks until Valentine's Day, we secretly write notes to each other expressing our love and appreciation for one another. We encourage the kids to write the same number for everyone and to try to tie the "I love you" message to a specific way that person has blessed them. On Valentine's Day, we pass out all the cards at the dinner table and have fun reading them out loud. We have kept the notes from each year now and it is such a blessing to look back at all the love we have for one another.

CONTACT US



timami@juno.com



1026 W. Woodman Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85283



480.491.9331

a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shines as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." And Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which art in heaven." To be able to reflect God's light to the dark corners of our world is the call that we as Christians have.

Let us take stock of how we reflect God and ask Him to straighten us, hammer us flat, clean our spots and polish our scratches so that the world will get an accurate view of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Finally, remember that our influence is strongest within our own home. It is where our flaws are most obvious and can be the most

damaging. The home is the place where we can see ourselves in the mirror of our children. How they reflect God is a reflection of how well we reflect God. Are we building a house of mirrors for the county fair or a house full of Godly children that will in turn accurately reflect God to their world?

Books (or tapes) we love...
Joy & Carla Link, National Ministry Overseers of GFI, have numerous tapes that have proven invaluable to us. One we have made use of recently is the tape series, "Understanding Peer Pressure." This two-tape series proved very useful as we taught it to our children so that they might fully understand the dynamics of relationships. As loud out in the tapes, the girls made

graduated spheres labeled, of the different levels of relationship and we discussed where different people in their lives belong in proximity to their hearts - Very helpful as our girls deal with fair weather, friends and possessive children!
Contact the Links by phone at 319.754.5719 or by email at pink@jio.g. Their many resources would bless your family.

Kid Funny

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Tim & Ami Loper
1026 West Woodman Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283