

# MIRROR WIBBOB

ON THE WALL ...  
WHO IS THE  
FAIREST OF  
THEM ALL?

**by Robyn Wilkerson**

# Mirrors

We live in a society full of mirrors. Not all are the big, glass, reflective kind. The world can become our mirror. The people we surround ourselves with become our mirrors. Even our religion can become our mirror.

I'm going to talk about each of these mirrors and what they mean to your life. I'm also going to talk about the only mirror that really matters—the mirror of God's Word. The only mirror that can actually create beauty!



Before we get started, I'd like you to take a few minutes to answer 3 questions. Your answers will help you reflect as you read through the following pages.

**1. How does what is happening in the world today change how you think about yourself? How does it change how others see you?**

**2. Think about your closest group of friends. How are you like them? Where you like them in those ways before you met them, or did you change after they entered your life?**

**3. How does your religion shape your life? How does it impact how you see yourself and how others see you?**

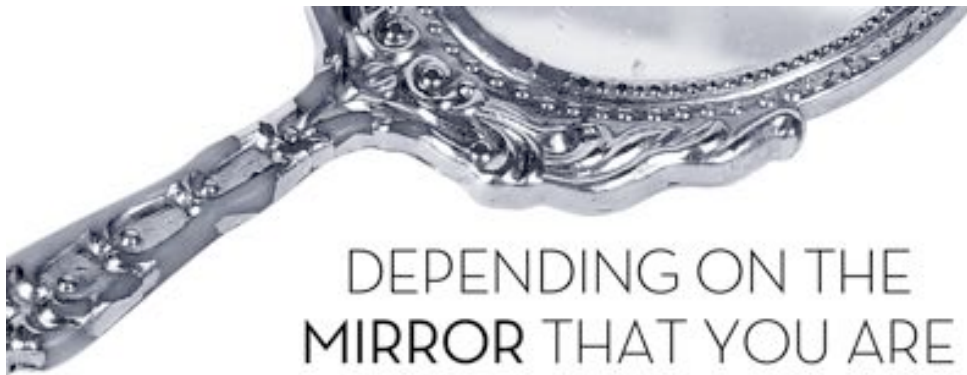
# Who Do You See?

Who do you see when you look into the mirror?

On different days and at different times these are some of the things I see:

- I see a young girl just starting out into adulthood, then that image transitions into the woman I have become.
- I see the tired mother of four boys, then I see the happy mother of four grown sons who all serve the God I love.
- I see a leader, ready to take on the world's problems.
- I see a wife, ready to stand by her husband's side and support him even as she follows her own call.
- I see a daughter of God pleading for His intervention when difficulties loom.

**All** of these elements exist within me, but different aspects are reflected depending on what I see and what I let **influence** me.



DEPENDING ON THE  
MIRROR THAT YOU ARE  
LOOKING INTO ...  
THE REFLECTION OF WHO  
YOU **SEE** IS SHAPING THE  
PERSON YOU **ARE**

If you look in the mirror and see a leader, then you *are* a leader. If you look in the mirror and see a woman bowing under the pressures she is facing in life, then you are that woman. **Your *perception of who you are* shapes who you are.**

**Who do you see when you look in the mirror? Write down what you see (and be honest).**

# MIRROR OF THE WORLD

We live in a very individualistic society. We are told we can do what we want, be what we want, and that we can become the person we want.

We focus so much on ourselves that we can lose track of what really matters—**our relationship with God!**

***Take a good look in the mirror**—each of you doing whatever you want, whenever you want, refusing to pay attention to me (Jeremiah 16:12, The Message).*

The mirror of the world **turns us away from God** and toward instant gratification and pleasure.

*There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; **look again**—it leads straight to hell (Proverbs 14:12).*

Worse, it is possible to become so focused on fitting in with our culture that we stop thinking about what really matters.

We live mindlessly, focused only on being a part of what is happening around us. When that happens, we create a break in our relationship with God.

**The only way to change this is to fix our attention on God!** We can do this through personal spiritual formation exercises.

*Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. **Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.** Readily recognize what he wants from you and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to it's level of immaturity,*

***God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you***  
(Romans 12:2, The Message).

The world **needs** you and I to be fully alive and growing in love, character, and the lifestyle of Jesus! To do that we need the power of the Holy Spirit.

Connecting to that power requires practicing spiritual disciplines, which allow the Holy Spirit to work through and empower us. By themselves, these actions are nothing but busy work. When we approach them as spiritual disciplines, when we utilize them as part of our spiritual walk, they become a direct action to help us connect with the the blessings and will of God.

The disciplines of the Holy Spirit help us draw near to God, reach out for Him, and give up our earthly encumbrances. They help us become more like Jesus while growing into the Heart of God.

### ***Disciplines of Surrender***

The disciplines of surrender strengthen God's authority in our lives.

- Repentance and Confession
- Yielding and Submission
- Fasting
- Worship

### ***Disciplines of Solitude***

The disciplines of solitude help us grow closer to God by choosing to intentionally be alone, away from human interaction and distraction.

- Solitude and Silence
- Listening and Guidance
- Prayer and Intercession
- Study and Mediation

### ***Disciplines of Service***

The act of fellowship, connecting with other believers, also connects us to the Holy Spirit. The relationships we intentionally build directly impact our relationship with God.

- Fellowship
- Simplicity
- Service
- Witness

God's power is made perfect in our weakness (2. Cor. 12:9) and becomes visible through our growth. This means our path to leadership must always be directed by a humble dependence on God.

**1. How have the distractions of the world distracted you from your relationship with God?**

**2. What spiritual disciplines could you incorporate into your life to strengthen your relationship with God?**





The kind of people **you follow** will determine the kind of person you are ... and in the future the people **you will lead**.

Scripture tells us several times to be mindful of who we associate with. Many people take this as a harsh admonition to never associate with non-Christians. What it is actually saying is to be careful who your **close** friends are. Be careful who you form close relationships with. Those relationships will actually shape who you become.

*For now we see obscurely in a mirror, but then it will be face to face. Now I know partly; then I will know fully, just as God has fully known me. But for now, three things last - **trust, hope, love; and the greatest of these is love. Pursue love!*** (1 Cor. 13:12-14:1, CJB)

Relationships open us up to change—both good and bad. 1 Corinthians tells us we should pursue the positive in our relationships—**trust, hope, and love**.

We should avoid relationships that don't have those three things, because without them the relationship will lead to pain and disappointment. Negative relationships can actually lead us to see a negative reflection of ourselves. Instead we are to **pursue love**, making true, godly love the center of all of our relationships!

When we do experience hurt, we are told to forgive. Your **forgiveness** doesn't excuse their behavior. Your forgiveness **prevents** their behavior from **destroying** your heart. When you pursue love, and apply forgiveness in your life, you will experience a release that only God can give!

## **Love = Forgiveness = Release**

Are you sitting there now thinking about negative relationships in your life? Are you thinking of things you could have done differently to bring more love into the relationships that matter to you? Here is my advice to you today.



### **Tomorrow is a new day!**

Take time to decide where you want your life to go, make a plan (including a plan for what relationships you want and need in your life), and then implement that plan!

**1. Do you have a mission statement for your life? If yes, write it here. If not, create one today!**

**2. Do you have a strong mentor in your life? A person you can go to for godly advice and guidance? How would having a positive mentoring relationship improve how you see yourself?**



Religion can hobble you. Shocked that I, a pastor, said that? I mean it!

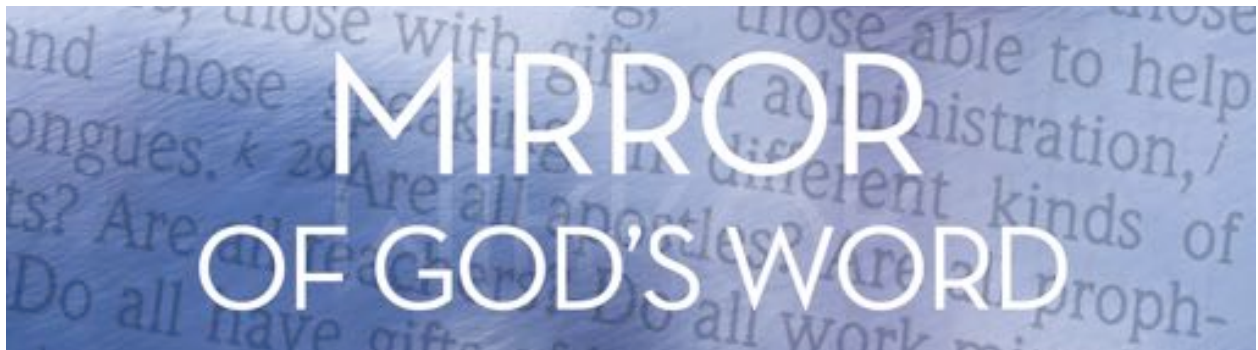
Religion and faith are two completely different things. Religion is a label that many people apply so strongly to their life that they forget what really matters, their relationship with God.

*You're hopeless, you religion scholars and Pharisees! Frauds! You're like manicured grave plots, grass clipped and the flowers bright, but six feed down it's all rotting bones and worm-eaten flesh. People look at you and think you're saints but beneath the skin you're total frauds (Matthew 23:27-28, The Message).*

What really matters is that you are a **Follower of Jesus**. When we live our lives according to His words and mandates, we are not being “religious,” we are living in Faith.

The mirror of religion does nothing to reflect your beauty and the intricacy with which God created you. Instead it creates a false image, **a hollow shell** with nothing inside.

**List three behaviors/actions in your life that could be more authentic.**



# MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD

The mirror of God's Word is the only mirror in your life that matters!

I want to make sure you really get what I'm saying here. **God's Word** and how you react to it is the only mirror that reflects who you **truly** are.

Look at what His Word tells about about the difference between religion and how He **wants us to live.**

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—**they will be blessed in what they do.** Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 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 1:22-27).

If you do what God's Word says, **you will be blessed** in what you do!

God doesn't want us to just read His word. He wants us to **hear** what He is saying, **share** that message with others, and **actively** live that message out in our everyday lives!!



The other mirrors I've discussed reflect only a facsimile; a dim, distorted reflection. The mirror of God's Word actually **creates change** in your life, creating a new, exciting beauty that comes only from relationship with Him!

Take a look at the following verses. They each show how living out God's Word creates a **new kind of reflection** in your life.

*But mostly, show them all this by doing it yourself, incorruptible in your teaching, your words solid and sane. Then anyone who is dead set against us, when he finds nothing weird or misguided, might eventually come around.... Then **their good character will shine through their actions**, adding luster to the teaching of our Savior God (Titus 2: 8-10, The Message).*

*Just as water mirrors your face, so **your face mirrors your heart** (Proverbs 27:19, The Message).*

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful (Psalm 139:14, NIV).*

*... We can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him (2 Cor. 3:18, TLB).*

**1. Think of a person in your life who embodies the message in Titus 2: their good character shines through their actions. How does their behavior change the behavior of the people around them?**

**2. Examine your heart today. Is there unforgiveness, hostility, or hate in there? Proverbs 27:19 says your face mirrors your heart. What changes do you need to make in your heart to change your reflection?**

**3. When others look at you, what reflection do you want them to see? What actions do you need to take to achieve that reflection?**





So back to the question that started it all. Who is the fairest one of all?



They **only** mirror we need is His Word. If we focus on that mirror, we will grow in beauty, the true beauty only seen so far in Jesus.

**You were created in God's image!** Focus on His Word instead of the mirrors of the world, relationships, and religion and you will see a new kind of beauty looking back at you from the mirror. **The unsurpassed beauty of God's love!**