

Looking Unto Jesus

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By Toni Babcock

You know, if we really believed that we were people of worth and of value to God and His kingdom, we would stop trying so hard to get other people to believe we are people of worth and of value to God and His kingdom.

True value is recognized when we acknowledge and believe who we are in Christ, and get our eyes off of people, but often we spend so much energy trying to convince other people to acknowledge who we are, that the only thing we really accomplish is arousing their curiosity as to why we are trying so hard!

People have invisible radars that tell them when someone is "trying too hard," and it doesn't work - about the only thing we really accomplish is becoming a door mat for other people to wipe their feet on.

Teens, this can be true for you when you want so hard to fit in with your friends. It's easy to fall into a trap called "people worship." Consider all the times you may be tempted to do something you know is not right for you, in order to make someone else happy, someone who doesn't have your best interests in mind at all. That's putting the other person on a pedestal they don't belong on.

When it comes to compromising your values as a Christian, or being true to yourself and to your God, remember God's word, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.." Hebrews 12:1b-2a

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He is Faithful

**“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful”.
Hebrews 10:23 NIV**

Sometimes we do our best but others misunderstand and hate us. And sometimes we do what is right and others persecute us because it goes against their interests. Nothing tests our faith more than to see the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper. This is why some people are afraid to profess their faith openly. However, we are exhorted to persevere and be steadfast in our hope and make known to others our testimony through both word and deed. Fellowship with other believers is also important because it helps to support and encourage us.

We need to be pure and holy and derive our comfort from the grace of God and his promises and not be influenced by worldly approval or the fear of persecution.

We must always remember that there is someone who loves us and sees our hearts and intentions. He always understands and supports us in furthering God's purpose. His assurance is our hope and security.

When you feel the world is against you, hold firm to what you belief is true. God is faithful and will come to you.