

## OUR SINS WE DON'T SEE

**"You have looked deep into my heart Lord / you know me/ Before I say a word you know what I'm going to say/ You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body / Search me O God and know my heart. Put me to the test and see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me." {Psalm 139}**

### LOOKING BAD

I was sound asleep when I received the call that one of my members had been in an automobile accident. I went to the emergency room and talked with the family and others who were there. Arriving home I went to brush my teeth, looked in the mirror and "Geronimo!" - I looked like an Indian. I had a glob of black gook on the side of my nose.

When I went to bed before the phone call I put it on there to heal a boil. I looked like a clown at the hospital and didn't know it. Three things would have prevented this.

I should have looked in the mirror before leaving home as my wife had told me to do hundreds of times. I needed a friend there to take me aside and tell me about it. I needed a critic, someone who does not like me or preachers who would point it out and laugh. One good thing about critics is they will look for our faults and they love to tell us and everyone else about them.

### NOT BEING BLIND

**"if we say we have no sin (singular- our sin nature) we are fooling ourselves and if we say we have not sinned (plural - acts of sin) the truth is not in us. {1 John 1}**

**"The desires of the flesh are opposed to the desires of the spirit. They are constantly in conflict with each other." [Gal. 5]**

The word "Sin" singular points to our old evil nature that God leaves in us, the kind of person we were before we came to Christ. The Bible calls it the "flesh". It

produces acts of sin we can see. James one says we are lured like a fish by, "Our own evil desires." We know when we take God's name in vain; tell a lie; lash out verbally at somewhat in anger etc.

To be honest, we get rid of most things like this fairly easily and quickly. We are like the old country preacher who said: "Before I became a Christian I liked to fight, get drunk and run around with wild women. Now that I have become a Christian, I have just about quit all that."

We *do* need to get rid of *individual "sins"*. In the Lord's prayer, a pattern for our praying, Jesus tells us to ask our father to "*forgive us of all our sins*". This means more than mouthing the words like a parrot saying, "Polly wants a cracker". God wants to shake us and say, "What sins?"

This is how we grow. A lady was watching a sculptor carving the image of a lion out of stone. The said I wish I could do that. Answered, "It is easy. Just take out everything that does not look like a lion.

First John 1:9 says: "If we confess our sins to God He is faithful and justice and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all sin" (1:9) If I get out of bed in the middle of the night to answer the telephone, stump my toe and fall into my television, I might take God's name in vain. But before I got back in bed I would ask God to forgive me and help me to never to do that again.

### BEING BLIND

**"Don't criticize, judge and condemn others. / You can see the spec of sawdust in someone else's eye but you can't see the log in your own eye. / You hypocrite. Take the log out of your eye first." (Mt. 7)**