

A country song had a woman driving away from her marriage, singing about her husband, *"You never even knew who I am"*. In the next the husband sang about his wife, *"You never even knew who I am."*

We hide our true selves from others because we are afraid they won't like us and we hide it from ourselves. We say:

"You are hard headed but I am resolute.

You are stubborn but I have convictions.

/You are stingy but I am thrifty etc.

Our problem is, we think because we obey God and do good things, that makes us a good person and a good Christian. The important thing to God is not what we do but how we do it; the kind of person we are and how we look at and treat people.

A good mother prepares meals for her family but if she does it grudgingly and complains about it and is rude to her children when they don't get to the table on time she is not a beautiful person or Christian. The same is true of a father who works hard to provide for his family and acts like this.

The Pharisees, who got Jesus executed, obeyed 612 rules. What they *did not* have was *love*. They expected everyone to be able to obey these rules but did not help them do it. Jesus said they pile burdens on top of people and won't lift a finger to help them. What they *did* have was pride. They thought they were better than others. They chose the best seats in church so they could be seen.

First Corinthians 13 says we can sell everything we have and give it to the poor. but if we don't have love, it is worth nothing in the eyes of God. Proverbs 6 says, "God hates a proud look."

Years ago in a huge rescue mission in New York, one homeless man came for his free meal every night. He went by the name "Old Joe" and rain or shine, he never missed a meal. But in chapel after the meal, he would constantly talk during the message or fall asleep and snore. One day the Director of the mission, had enough of this and told him to leave and not come back for a meal until he could act right in the worship service.

The next night "Old Joe" was not there for the meal. When chapel was over the director was led by the Lord to go find him. He found him asleep in an alley under a blanket of newspapers.

He put his hand on his shoulder and said, "Joe, brother I apologize to you for what I said. Come one, we have a hot meal waiting for you." Old Joe said, I will if you will say again what you just said. The director said, what part, and old Joe said, "You called me your brother."

Our Lord says in Lowell's poem:
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three
himself, his hungry neighbor and Me.
- The Vision of Sir Launfal

BEING KIND

"Love is kind." (1 Corinthians 13)

Next Week

FROM BLINDNESS TO KINDNESS

Next week we will see how to move from blindness to kindness (love). Spend time alone with God and our Bible. (Isa. 6). Have a close friend who will tell us the truth about ourselves (Gal. 2). Listen to our critics and spend more time with truly good Christians. (Matt. 5:10)