

## Comparison, Identity, and Pride

If you're reading this, you most likely struggle like I do in one of these areas, or if you're really like me, these lies meet at an intersection that is all too familiar in your day to day routine. Before I get started in this letter, I want to outline my intentions in writing this. I am going to be very real in this letter in explaining my experience with these issues. I am going to be equally as straight forward about the promises of God that are the cure to this seemingly never-ending cycle.

First off, the idea of comparison can be a good thing. Because looking at your brothers/sisters in Christ and seeing their strengths can drive you into deeper awe of the Lord and what He can do through the life of a wicked sinner. Philippians 3:17 calls us to observe those who walk by the pattern of the apostles and imitate their faith. And verses like 1 Corinthians 11:1 point out that we are to be imitators of those who imitate Christ, and this cannot happen without a certain level of comparing. What we must seek to imitate is the pure humility Jesus has displayed for us in His life and death.

My experience with comparison however has sin embedded at its very core. My entire life, I have been chasing after the passions of my flesh. I have been chasing after who I want to be, for the sake of my name, and my fame alone. I work, and work, and work until I can claim the status that I long for. I go to whatever extreme I must to prove that I am simply better than you in what matters to me. (In this, we see the heart of the matter is a mind that is idolatrous, and seeks its own self-glory.) This pride-filled inclination had worked its way into every single interaction I had with human beings, and the sin, shame, and arrogance that have resulted from my insecurities have ruled my flesh since I can remember. You would think that after my heart was changed by the Holy Spirit; this cycle would die. However, as a Christian man, my struggle with this has not only taken on new form, but it has amplified. I am constantly measuring up my good works against the backdrop of a fellow brother's works. I am never content with who God has made me to be in this world. And my life is restless because of it. I desire the gifts, talents, and intellect that my peers have. My deceitful heart yearns for these abilities for the sole end that is to make much of myself. And in this process, I am driven further away from the things of God and his kingdom, once again.

To truly get to the bottom of this, we must view the subject through the scope of the gospel in the word of God. Look to the true and living Vine for life, for joy, and for fulfillment. Jesus bought your complete satisfaction on the cross, and He is faithful to continue to draw near to you through sanctifying your flesh. Brothers and sisters, if you leave this letter remembering one thing, let it be this: Jesus Christ has shed His blood for you that you might come to know the abundance of joy that comes with living a life walking with the Prince of Peace. Jesus has created you with gifts to leverage for the purpose of making His name more famous among the world. Worship the Savior who deserves all your praise, and who has purchased your identity with a price. If you have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, you have partaken in his death, and the joy of the Lord is your strength. In passing from death to life, you have entered into a new identity. You are a child of the Most High.

Dive into the Word to help you combat the temptation of comparison and pride. Read Philippians 2:1-11 and see how we are called to have the mind of Christ in the way He considered others before Himself and how He humbled Himself to the greatest levels of humility

to glorify the Father. Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 where Paul discusses how it doesn't matter what others think about him and how it doesn't even matter what he thinks about himself. He makes it clear that the only thing that matters is what God thinks about us, and His final judgment of us.

*If you would like to reach out to talk with someone, please send a message to [strugglewell@allthingsministries.com](mailto:strugglewell@allthingsministries.com)*

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