

7: Godliness (2 Peter 1:6)

In Lesson Six we learned that God uses the greatest trials and sufferings of our lives to conform us into the image of His Son. To be Christ-like, or godly, is to be distinctly different from the secular world—it is this characteristic that sets the devout Christian apart from the rest.

Godliness, as listed in 2 Peter 1:6, is described as devoutness and piousness towards God. Piety is "marked by or showing reverence for deity and devotion to divine worship."¹

Review 2 Peter 1:1-11. In verse three it says, "*His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and _____.*" How do we shine these gifts so that Christ may be seen? Read James 1:23-27.

In His Image

When you look in the mirror who do you see? Who do others see? Who does God see? _____

In Genesis 1:27 it says, "*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*" (NKJV). The Hebrew word translated "image" in this passage is *tselem*. It means to shade—it is as if we are a shadow of the Living God.

Define reflection. _____

Imagine looking into a mirror and seeing Christ looking back at you. Would this change how you view yourself?

A reflection is not only an image looking back, but an effect produced by an influence.

Describe the visible effects Christ has made in your life as you have diligently given yourself to the development to the new nature within you. _____

Read Colossians 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 3:18. And remember, a mirror is something that gives *true* representation.

¹ Merriam-Webster, Inc: *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 10th ed. Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.: Merriam-Webster, 1996, c1993

First John 3:2-3 says, "Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure."

First Corinthians 15:49 says, "And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly man" (NKJV).

True Reflection

Common synonyms for reflection are manifestation, evidence, expression, and indication. A truly pious Christian will be marked by, or show, their awe, their commitment, their dedication, and their affection to God outwardly. They shine Jesus Christ!

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-7.

Philippians 2:15 says, "Let your lives shine brightly before them." But you must have light shining on you to create a shadow.

Reverently Devoted

Read Daniel 6:1-28.

How does Daniel react when he learns of the law that was signed? In verse 10, there are several key words that indicate Daniel's reverence and devotion to God. List them in the spaces provided.

- _____
- _____
- _____

What did the officials find Daniel doing in verse 11? How did Daniel reflect his inward consecration to God?

Proverbs 27:19 says, "As in water face reflects face, so a man's heart reveals the man" (NKJV).

You were asked in the beginning of this lesson how God sees you. Daniel 6:22 may offer some insight.

In closing, read Psalm 4:3.