

Window of Transparency

By: Amanda Winder

I Imagine standing outside in the cold and peering into a window. Through the window you see a warm crackling fire, a dinner table with food, and a family running about getting ready to enjoy that wonderful food. Looking through the glass transports you to a different world, and, for a moment, you forget how cold it is outside. As you watch with fondness you realize a real family is on the other side of that window. The family is sharing intimate conversations about their day and you can even hear a few unconstructive words that help you see that they are not picture perfect. Now, without the window you would not be able to see the family clearly. Instead you would see a wall and have to imagine what is going on inside. Factually, you are able to see what is happening inside the house because the window is made of clear glass; it is transparent.

Most of us know what the word transparent means, some of us understand it, but very few of us possess the characteristic in our life. Transparency is like having a window on our house. Anyone has the freedom to walk up and view what is going on inside, even if what's on the inside is not desirable. In the same way, we should have a window built into us.

Of course I don't intend for you to have a window constructed into your body. I simply mean we should be open to anyone who is curious about our character. We should be striving to be like that window: clear, honest, true, and real. The point of the window is to allow the outside world in. It's almost like a viewing space for a curious person. When you peered into the window no one knew you were looking, they were simply living life like normal. We should live life the same way.

If someone wanted to peer into my life they wouldn't find a wall, they would find a window. I have chosen to be honest with the people I encounter. Lying about my true character is wrong for several reasons. I am afraid of what people might think, I do not have any confidence, or I do not know myself well enough to answer honestly. Whatever the case may be, I must be transparent. That window of transparency is what makes me real to others. It allows one to see I have faults, and if I am afraid of myself, I will tell you why.

Not only does transparency allow me to be transparent about myself, it allows me to be transparent about others. If my best friend asked me if her hair looked good, and it didn't, I would tell her the truth. Or, if I knew someone who believed they were talented, but honestly were not, I would find an appropriate way to reveal the truth. Too many of us lie to our friends because we do not want to "hurt his/her feelings." Usually, feeling is temporary. If my honesty is going to better someone, I would rather live with their hurt "feelings" for a while because soon they will have to admit the truth and move past it.

Today, I encourage you to question yourself. Do you have a window of transparency built into your life? Can anyone come to you because they know, without a doubt; they will get an honest answer and opinion? Or, do you have a wall built up? Do others have to wonder what you are like on the inside because you are too afraid to be real? Do you constantly lie to your best friends because telling the truth is "mean" and will hurt his/her "feelings"? If you have a wall built up, why is that wall there, and are you willing to tear it down? And, if you are willing to tear it down, do you have the confidence to construct a window of transparency?