

Friendly – Inside Out

Are you attractive? I'm not referring to external beauty or facial features.

I'm asking if you are attractive – magnetic, winsome, charming, friendly. Listen to Proverbs 18:24 (KJV): “A man that hath friends must show *himself* friendly.”

Do you see the point of the proverb? To have friends, we must *be* friendly. Friendliness is a matter of being someone ... more than it is doing something.

Writing about this proverb, Charles R. Swindoll, pastor, author and educator, said in his book *Seasons of Life*: “A prerequisite to friendliness is a positive, healthy self-image ... A healthy attitude toward ourselves is necessary before there can be a healthy attitude toward others and attract them as friends.”



As encouragement toward that vital objective, Swindoll listed “three simple, yet wonderful facts:”

1. God originally designed and “prescribed” you (Psalm 139:13-17).
2. God is not through – He hasn’t completed His work in you (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 2:10).
3. The *real* you – that which God develops – is *within* you (1 Samuel 16:7).

“Far more than your outward size, shape, features and dress, your *inner* qualities are the things that make you attractive and friendly,” Swindoll said. “Find encouragement in the fact that you have a unique combination of inner qualities found in no one else – so you have a contribution to make in just being yourself.”

Words fitly spoken. Let’s ask God to use us today to be a friend to someone who is needing it – residents we are serving in Life Care and Century Park, or perhaps an associate who is struggling with a personal issue.

That makes a lot more sense than feeling we have to be walking around with a grin 24 hours a day.

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter