

How We Look at People

In an episode of the old television series *All in the Family*, Edith and Archie are attending Edith's high-school class reunion.



Edith encounters an old classmate named Buck, who has allowed himself to become extremely obese. Edith has a delightful conversation with him about old times and the things they did together, but remarkably, Edith doesn't seem to even notice how extremely heavy her friend has become.

Later, Edith and Archie are talking. She said, "Archie, ain't Buck a beautiful person?"

Archie replied, "Edith, I'll never figure you out. You and I can look at the same guy and you see a beautiful person and I see a blimp!"

And Edith responded, "Yeah, Arch, ain't that too bad!"

Are we guilty, like Archie, of making judgments about people based on external appearances?

Jesus tells us that when we look at other people, we should see something special in them. We should see them not just as beautiful people – or not – but as people for whom He gave His life. We should see them not just as fellow believers, but as people in whom He lives.

What do you see when you look at the broken person, the dysfunctional person, the needy person, the sinner?

Thankfully, the associates of Life Care and Century Park regularly view the ones they serve with compassion – looking past their outward circumstances to connect with their concerns and offer remedy where possible.

If we see anything less than one for whom Christ died, "ain't that too bad!" as Edith put it.

Jesus said: *Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me* (Matthew 25:40 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter