

Surprise in Heaven

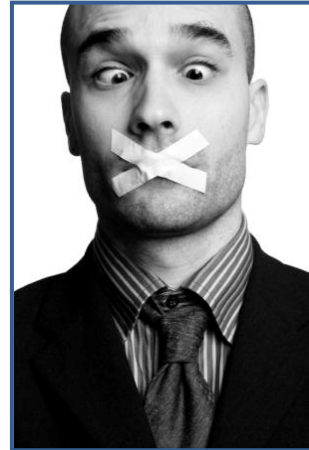
Many of us come to the lofty opinion we have of ourselves by means of comparison; it's human nature.

In our judgment of others, we conclude, "I'm not like that person." Or we may think, whether expressed or not, "I'm more important than those people."

Pride does not exist in a vacuum. In the process of raising ourselves up "on a pedestal," we inevitably leave others in the dust.

A poem by an unknown author addresses this unfortunate leaning of mankind in a clever way:

*I dreamed death came the other night;
And heaven's gates swing wide.
With kindly grace an angel
Ushered me inside.
And there, to my astonishment,
Stood folks I'd known on earth.
Some I'd judged and labeled
Unfit or of little worth.
Indignant words rose to my lips,
But never were set free;
For every face showed stunned surprise ...
No one expected me!*



Rather than measuring ourselves against other people, we should evaluate ourselves against our own potential. God has a plan for each life. We can always reach farther and dream bigger.

I warn everyone among you ... not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance, but to rate his ability with sober judgment (Romans 12:3).

– Beecher Hunter