



The
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“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19, NASB).

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By His Wounds You Have Been Healed

The Picture of Dorian Gray, by Oscar Wilde, is about a painting of Gray, a man who was proud of his own beauty and who sold his soul to live a hedonistic lifestyle and be able to keep his outward beauty while transferring his wickedness to the portrait. When Gray would act out in evil ways, instead of his personal beauty becoming damaged, the damage would be done to the painting. The portrait essentially became a visual catalog of the sins committed by Gray, and it grew horrifically ugly and disfigured while Gray remained unscathed. Of course, by the end, Gray and his portrait are reversed so that Gray himself becomes terribly ugly and disfigured because of the evil life he lived.

I have often thought of this story when thinking about the problem of sin and what it does to us. It's not an exact parallel, of course, but it should give us pause. We are made in God's image, but our sins create in us an ugly mess. Though made in God's image, we are marred and disfigured within. What would we look like if the damage done to us inwardly due to our sins were manifested outwardly? Not a pretty thought.

Now reflect upon what Jesus did. Jesus Christ, the exact imprint of the nature and image of God (Heb. 1:3), came in the flesh and died because of the sins of humanity. “He himself bore our sins in his body” (1 Pet. 2:25). As Isaiah says, “his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind” (Isa. 52:14). To see Jesus on the cross is to see what sin does to the image of God. Jesus' body was marred and cut, and his visage shattered to become essentially unrecognizable. This is the perfection of God's image marred deeply by the sins of the world. By my sin and yours. Jesus is the human portrait of what sins do to all of us.

Yet in his death and resurrection, Jesus defeated death and paved the pathway for remaking and reshaping the image of God in us. Now, in being reconciled to God through Christ, we may “be conformed to the image” of the Son of God (Rom. 8:29). By taking the damage done by sin upon himself, we do not have to be like Dorian Gray at the end of the story. Not at all. Instead, we rise up as new creatures, putting on Christ and being recreated in his image with all the beauty that this entails (Col. 3:5-11). “By his wounds you have been healed.”

--- Doy Moyer, 3-18-22 Facebook Post, via [Salt & Light](#), March 20, 2022
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