

ATTITUDES

THE VALUE & IMPORTANCE OF GODLINESS

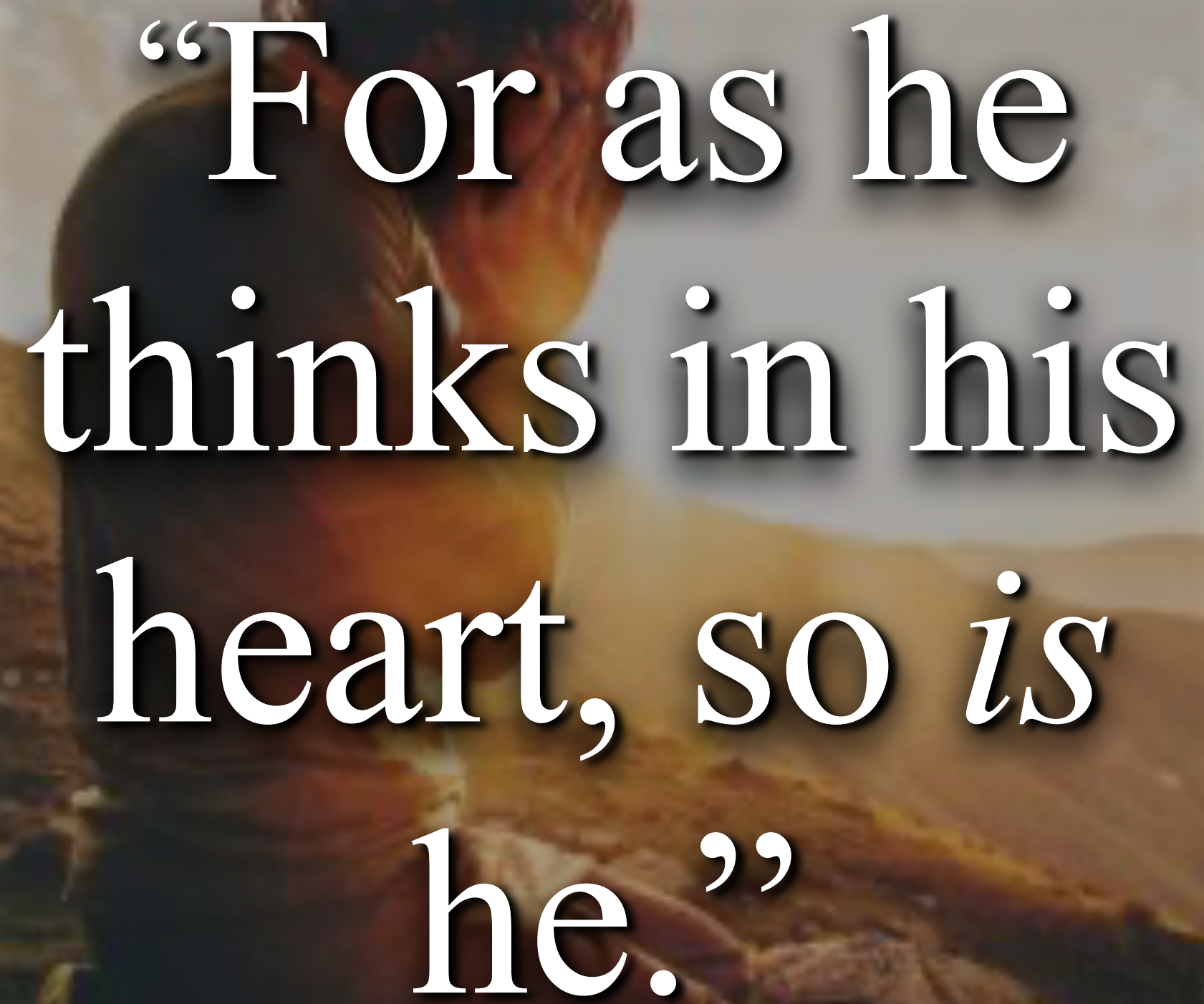
Our Attitude Towards OURSELF MATTERS

(James 1:23–25; Luke 18:9–14; Romans 12:1–21)



ATTITUDES

Towards OURSELVES

A person with curly hair is shown from the back, looking down at a book they are holding. They are in a natural setting with hills and a body of water in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

“For as he
thinks in his
heart, so *is*
he.”

Proverbs 23:7

- HAVING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE IS ESSENTIAL TO SERVING GOD
- NOT MERELY ADVOCATING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, BUT A GODLY ATTITUDE!
- OUR ATTITUDE: “Our beliefs, emotions, and behaviors toward a particular object, person, thing, or event”

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Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Towards OURSELVES

- **OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD MATTERS**
- **OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SCRIPTURE MATTERS**
- **OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD'S AUTHORITY MATTERS**
- **OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS The CHURCH of CHRIST MATTERS**
- **OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS OURSELF MATTERS**

ATTITUDES

Towards OURSELVES

**MUCH
DEPENDS
ON WHICH
MIRROR
WE USE**

- **HUMANISM**
- **PAGANISM**
- **MYSTICISM**
- **CALVINISM**
- **THE BIBLE**

(James 1:22-25)

ATTITUDES

Towards OURSELVES

**MUCH
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James 1:23–25 (NKJV)

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

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¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

IF WE RESPECT, BELIEVE & LOVE GOD'S WORD ...



- ▶ We will see ourselves as God's creation and accountable to Him (Eccle. 12:13,14; Rom. 2:5-11)
- ▶ We will see ourselves as sinners in need of salvation (Rom. 3:23; 6:23)
- ▶ We will see ourselves as God does: LOVED / UNDESERVING / UNWORTHY / DEPENDENT / REDEEMABLE / SAVED or LOST ...

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Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)

⁹ Also He spoke this parable to some ^ewho trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee ^fstood and prayed thus with himself, ^g‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; ^hfor everyone who exalts himself will be ⁴humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted .”

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Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)

■ The Pharisee (11,12)

- ▶ **Misdirected his prayer** – “stood and prayed thus with himself,” (11)
- ▶ **Saw himself better than others** – “God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.” (11)
- ▶ **Was proud that he had exceeded the requirements of the Law** - “I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” (12)

Luke 18:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.



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Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)

■ The Pharisee (11,12)

- ▶ Jesus never condemned the Pharisees for following the Law – but for their hypocrisy, self righteousness, self exaltation, man made traditions and lack of compassion and love (Luke 18:9; Mat 15:7-9; 23)

Luke 18:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.



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Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)

■ The Tax Collector (13):

- ▶ **“Standing afar off”** An expression of unworthiness.
- ▶ **“Would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven”** expression of guilt & shame.
- ▶ **“But beat his breast”** – An expression of grief and anguish.
- ▶ **“Saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'"** - An expression of dependency (humility) and repentance.

Luke 18:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

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Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)



■ CONTRASTING ATTITUDES:

- **The Pharisee** – Superiority, despised others, self righteousness, felt worthy to approach God because of his goodness, self-sufficiency.
- **The Tax Collector** – Humility, unworthy, penitent, insufficiency, accountability.
- Can we see ourselves in either of these two men? If so – which one?

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Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)



■ A GODLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF:

- ▶ Recognizes I am a sinner in need of God's mercy, forgiveness & renewal (Isa. 59:1,2; Rom. 3:23; Col. 2:13; Rom. 6:3-6)
- ▶ Recognizes my need to be humble, submissive, draw near to God, resist the devil, cleanse our deeds & thoughts (James 4:6-10)
- ▶ Recognizes I am nothing without Christ (Eph 2:12,13; Rev. 1:6; 5:10)

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Luke 18:9–14 (NKJV)



■ A GODLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS DEEDS:

- ▶ Understands no accomplishment is GOOD apart from JESUS (John 15:5)
- ▶ Understands they will never make me worthy before God (Isa. 64:6; Luke 17:10)
- ▶ Understands salvation can't be earned or deserved (Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 11:6; Luke 17:10)
- ▶ Understands reception of God's grace requires humble, trusting, loving submission (Mat. 5:3-11; Titus 2:11-14; Heb 5:8,9; Luke 9:23)

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Towards OURSELVES

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF IS CHOSEN

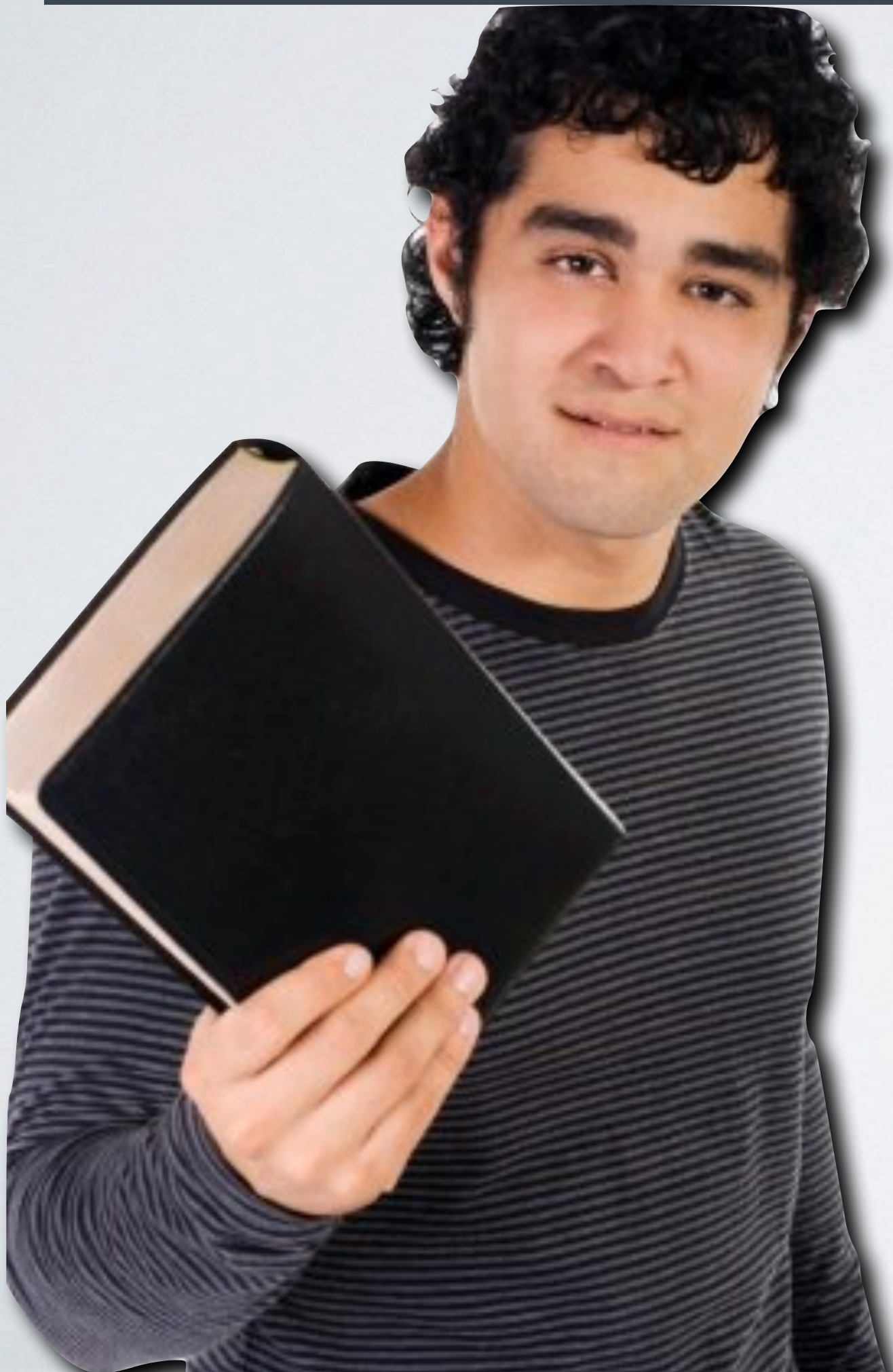
Romans 12:1–3 (NKJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which* is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

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OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF IS CHOSEN



**Romans 12:3
(NKJV)**

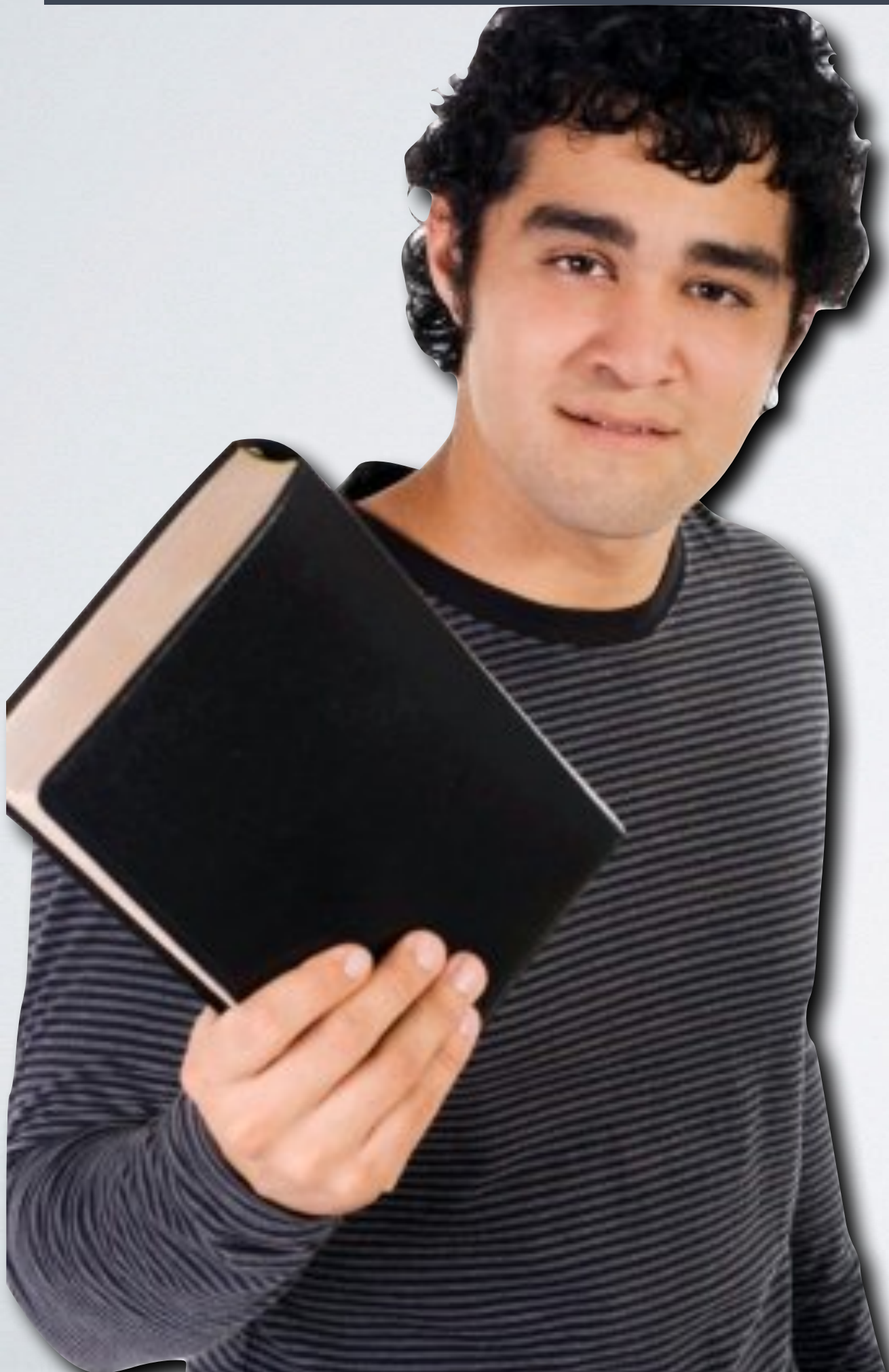
³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- The view we have of ourself is **A CHOICE.**
- **CORRECT THINKING IS INFORMED & PURPOSEFUL THINKING!**

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Towards OURSELVES

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF IS CHOSEN



Romans 12:16 (NKJV)

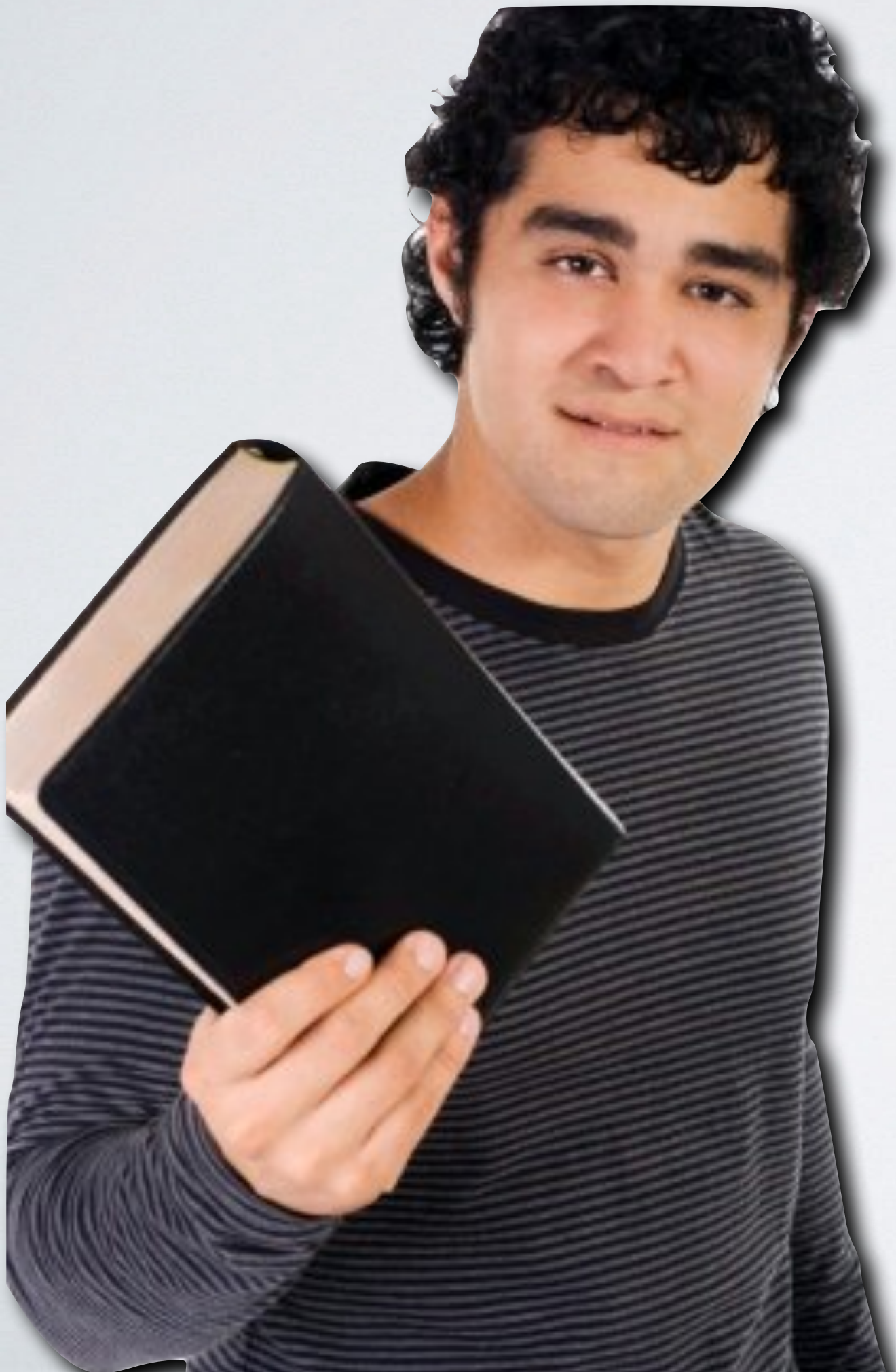
¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

- It is a choice to think of others above self (Phil. 2:1-4)
- My choices and influences affect the view I have of myself (money, authority and fame can engender pride & condescension)(1 Ti. 6:6-9)

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Towards OURSELVES

A GODLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF PROMOTES:



- **Humility / Teachable** (Mat 5:3; Jer. 10:23; Isaiah 6:5)
- **Meekness / Submission** (Eccl. 12:13,14; Luke 17:10; James 1:21)
- **Honesty / Integrity** (Acts 17:11)
- **Honest Self Examination / Receiving Correction** (Mt. 7:1-3; Ac 17:11; 2 Cor. 13:5; Pr. 15:31-33; 2 Ti 3:16,17)
- **Loving / Serving** [seek our true & eternal best interest] (Mk 12:29-31; Mt. 16:26)

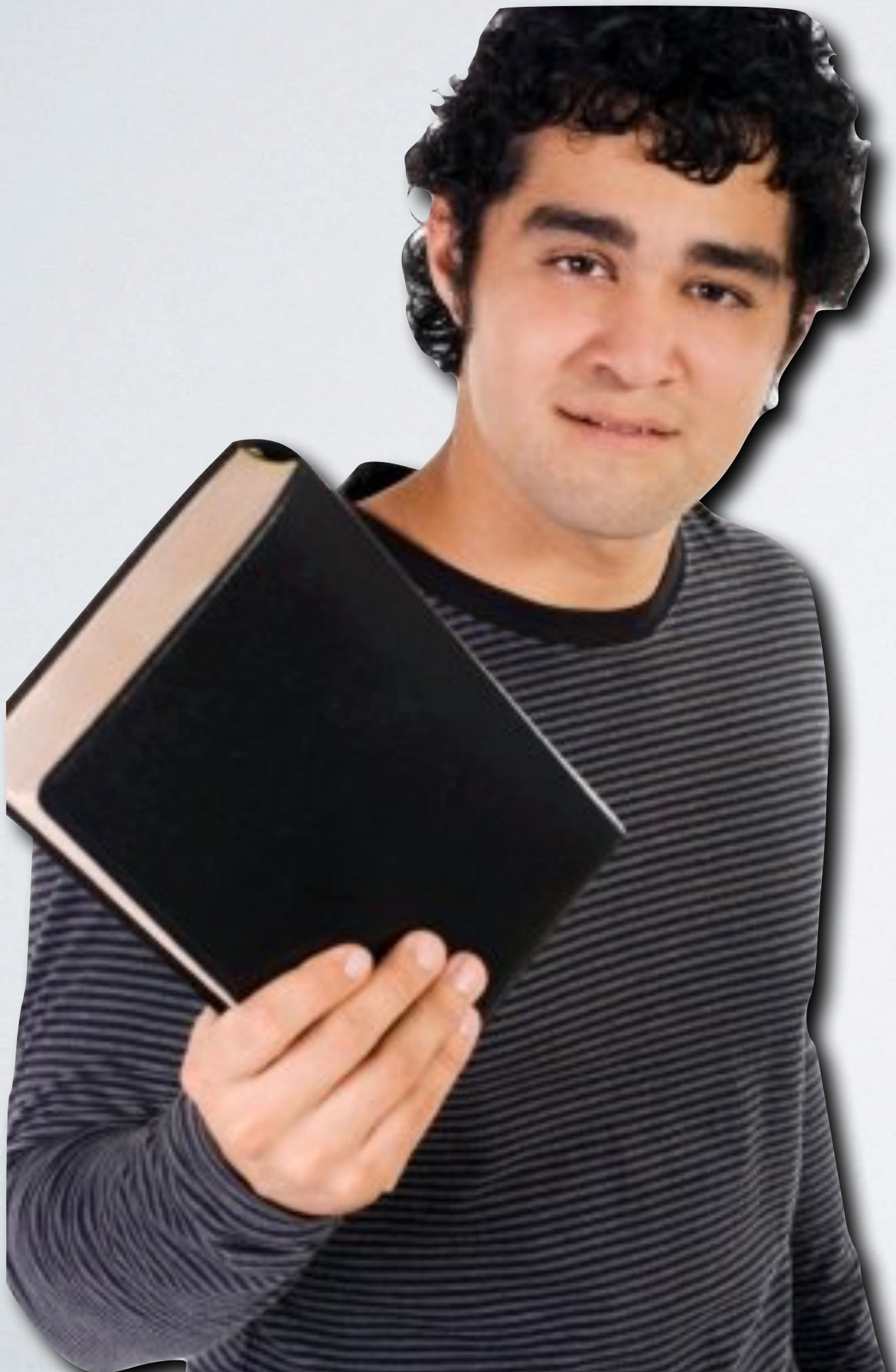
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Towards OURSELVES

A GODLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF PROMOTES:

James 3:13–18 (NKJV)

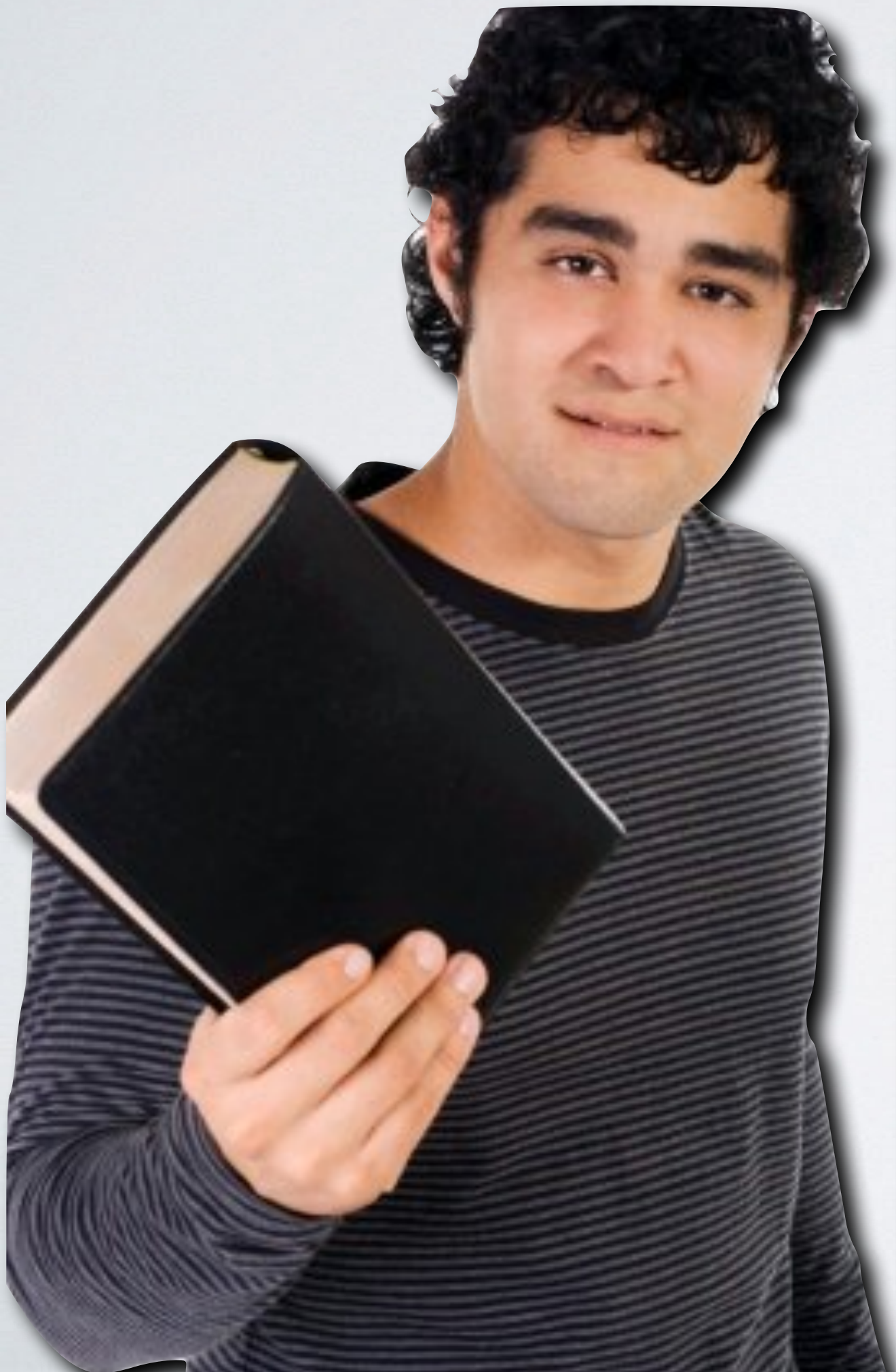
¹³ Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom. ... ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



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Towards OURSELVES

A GODLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF PROMOTES:



- **Self-denial** (Matt. 16:24; Luke 9:23). by esteeming others better than self (Phil. 2:3; John 13:3-17) by humbling oneself before God (1 Pet. 5:6).
- **Self-control** (Prov. 16:32; Gal. 5:23; 2 Pet. 1:6). bringing every thought & action into conformity with the will of God.
- **Self-sacrifice** (2 Cor. 8:5; Rom. 12:1-2). Christians are to be "living sacrifices" unto God-living each day to accomplish the good works for which they were created.

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MIRROR
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Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy *place*, With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

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Isaiah 66:2 (NKJV)

For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.

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**MUCH
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MIRROR
WE USE**

- ▶ Do we will see ourselves as God's creation & accountable to Him (Ecc. 12:13,14; Rom. 2:5-11; Heb 11:13-16)
- ▶ Do we see ourselves as sinners in need of God's mercy & salvation (Titus 3:1-5; Rom. 3:23; 6:23)
- ▶ Do we see ourselves as God does: UNDESERVING / DEPENDENT / REDEEMABLE / LOVED / SAVED or LOST (Jn 3:16-21)

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Towards OURSELVES

**MUCH
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MIRROR
WE USE**

- ▶ CREATED FOR GOD'S SERVICE
- ▶ ACCOUNTABLE TO OUR CREATOR
- ▶ GUILTY OF SINNING AGAINST GOD
- ▶ RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR CHOICES
- ▶ UNWORTHY OF SALVATION
- ▶ INCAPABLE OF REDEEMING OURSELVES
- ▶ LOVED BY GOD / GAVE HIS SON FOR US
- ▶ ONLY MADE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD IN CHRIST
- ▶ WILL EXIST FOREVER / HEAVEN OR HELL

ATTITUDES

Towards OURSELVES

**MUCH
DEPENDS
ON WHICH
MIRROR
WE USE**

- ▶ HEAR THE GOSPEL
- ▶ BELIEVE THE GOSPEL, THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD - THAT HE DIED FOR YOU AND IS THE RISEN LORD
- ▶ CONFESS JESUS AS LORD
- ▶ REPENT / TURN FROM YOURSELF, FROM SIN, AND TO GOD
- ▶ BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS
- ▶ LIVE FOR JESUS / IMITATE HIM

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Our Attitude Towards OURSELF MATTERS

(James 1:23–25; Luke 18:9–14; Romans 12:1–21)

**In order to be pleasing to God, we must have
an attitude of self-denial, trust, & surrender.**



ATTITUDES

THE VALUE & IMPORTANCE OF GODLINESS

Our Attitude Towards The CHURCH MATTERS

(Matthew 16:16-19; Ephesians 5:22-31; 2 Corinthians 11:28)

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1 Corinthians 11:27–32 (NKJV)

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.