

INSIDE SCOOP

Life is inside out, not outside in.

DO I LOOK OKAY?

Growing up, my clothes were strewn about every Sunday morning before church. I felt so much pressure to “look good”. I would try on countless outfits before landing on the best one. I felt like I had to present myself just right to enter in. What to wear? What to wear? I felt out-dressed and outnumbered. *Is everybody here supposed to have it all together? Or are we all together supposed to admit*

God knows us and He knows our hearts need Him.
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that we don't? You know, the music and God's Holy Word spoken were louder than what any of us wore. I'm not sure how much I heard then, but I've learned since that we enter in as we are. The Lord doesn't want our outfits and our performance. He wants us open to the truth about ourselves so we can see the truth about Him. God looks in the right place. The place that matters most.

I have tripped over this in my life. I have learned the best thing to wear is my heart on my sleeve in the presence of a God who gets me and receives me as I am. You can too.

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

RULES, RULES, RULES

It's not about rules that bind you; it's that Jesus rules and He longs to love us and open our hearts to the most beautiful life and secure our eternal life.

PAST THE SURFACE

You see, we are not alone. Ends up that those who have gone before us tripped over all this, too. Jesus knew them well. They were religious leaders known as the Pharisees whose lives were tied tight to wealth and power, laws, and regulations. They were all about the rules, all about what people saw on the outside. (Matthew 23:25) They missed the real joy in the journey. Jesus tagged them as “whitewashed tombs.” Looking beautiful on the outside, but on the inside they were lifeless. (Matthew 23:27)

THE REAL SCOOP

Jesus is more than a story on a page. He is the One who completes our stories. It's a relationship, not a list of rules, and not religion. Don't miss the real joy.

Jesus breathes life into the lifeless. Jesus goes past the surface, straight to the heart, and makes our joy complete.