

Aug 25, 2002

“The Psychology Of God”
Philippians 4:8-9
Dr. John A. Wells

I read a thought this week that caught my attention. It may catch yours also. “*You see in everyone the reflection of what you choose to have him (or her) be to you.*” In the language of psychology this would be very close to the concept of “transference.” (Unconsciously displacing behavior and reactions onto a person in our current life that originated from significant others in childhood.)

For instance, if a commander reminds a soldier of his strong and kind father, that soldier will most likely respond to him as he did his own father. Likewise, if a commander reminds a soldier of a harsh father, that soldier will tend to respond as he did as a child with his father. Anyway, you get the idea.

The thought I read, though, has a strange twist to “transference.” Instead of unconsciously responding to others in ways learned early in life, God gives us another way to respond in a conscious manner. “*Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*” In other words, choose to view each other the way God chooses to view us by looking at the best in us and for us. God can do this because His grace and forgiveness takes away the need to look at us as bad and sinful.

There is another saying I read: “*It is not enough for a gardener to love flowers; he must also hate weeds.*” God hated weeds enough to die on a cross for us. He loves his great array of flowers enough to lovingly tend to each in accordance with the beauty and purpose He made us. We have a choice each day to get the best from God and one another if we choose to see the best in ourselves. There is more to life than transference. God’s psychology can get a lot of individuals, marriages, families, and relationships back on track. These are some thoughts worth thinking about this week.