"But as for me, I shall behold Thy presence in righteousness, and when I wake up after Thy likeness, I shall be satisfied." (Psalm 17:15)

"See what an incredible quality of love the Father has given us, that we should be permitted to be called the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not recognize us, is that it does not recognize Him.
Beloved, we are even here and now God's children; it is not yet made clear what we shall be hereafter, but we know that when He comes and is manifested we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He really is.
And everyone that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself even as He Himself is pure." (1 John 3:1-3)

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty—emancipation from bondage, freedom.
And all of us, as with unveiled face, because we continued to behold (in the Word of God) as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord Who is the Spirit." (2 Cor. 3:17,18)

"...let us also bear the image of the (Man) of Heaven." (1 Cor. 15:49)

"...that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness, even to His death..." (Phil. 3:10)

"...But be transformed by the entire renewal of your mind—by its new ideals and its new attitude—so that you may prove for yourselves what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God..." (Romans 12:2)

"Before others and above all, special care must be taken of the ill so they may be looked after, as Christ, ('I was sick and you visited Me'); and ('What you did for one of these, my least brothers, you did for Me')." (from The Rule of St. Benedict with quotes from Matthew 25:36,40)

Moses Maimonides is quoted as saying, "Let me see in the sufferer the man alone."
To me this means seeing the patient for himself and his need, not for his economic or social status nor any other extraneous factors. However, it is at once apparent that no one lives in isolation and man must always be seen in the context of his family, his employment and his environment. Beyond this, as Christians we must see him, even if unsaved, as Jesus.

St. Francis of Assisi once was walking along a country road with Leo, his constant companion. Suddenly they heard a tinkling bell in the distance warning of the approach of a leper. As the sound of the bell came nearer Francis became more and more excited. Running toward the leper Francis threw his arms around him, embracing him and kissing him full on the lips. In this act of love and compassion the leper was transformed into Jesus Himself—and then disappeared. How similar is the ministry of Sister Teresa of Calcutta who has spent her life with the untouchable lepers for whom she has given life and comfort in absolute self-sacrifice.

Once when I was coming home to Tampa, Florida after having been in college for many months, I got off the bus at Sulfur Springs, near Tampa, where my father had a small convenience store. As I walked up the street I saw a young boy walking toward me with the disconcerting gait of one with cerebral palsy. As I looked at him my heart was seized with consternation and alarm since I saw in him the features of...
my brother whom I dearly loved. I wondered if he had been injured while I was away--
and I had just not been told! Standing there--my heart felt as if it had stopped--and
I was suspense there--watching the poor lad as he approached. But then, he staggered
by--hardly noticing me. It wasn't Bobby--but it could have been.

Since that day, I have always had the feeling regarding anyone I meet, and especi-
ally those with profound physical and emotional problems--"It could be Bobby--it could
be me--and yes--it is Jesus."

We are all conformed into His image. Seeing through the problem--through the
abuse--through the language--through the abnormality or the anomaly--and seeing Jesus--
this is indeed the need of the Christian today--whether he be doctor, nurse or just a
fellow human being. How could we with such an attitude ever cause hurt, or any bad
things--or even think badly toward the very worst of those with whom we have to do?
In the Medicine of the Whole Person, "Logopsychosomatic Medicine", we must view patient
care as Jesus care--the caring for spirit, soul and body. Jesus is the Logos--the Word,
the Spirit, the Transformer.

St. Paul instructs us to be transformed by the entire renewal of our minds. Thus
we see in the spirit the potential of "my spirit to be anointed by His Spirit" (1 Cor.
14:14) and in Romans 12:2 the potential of the total transformation of the mind through
Jesus Christ. Finally in the Prayer of Humble Access (Book of Common Prayer) we ask
that "our sinful bodies may be made clean by His Body and our souls washed through His
Most Precious Blood." Is not the potential of the human being in the here and now the
total transformation of spirit, soul and body?

If this is true we who profess and call ourselves Christians must begin to view
ourselves and those whom we contact--and those whom we treat--in the light of their
highest potential and not what they are--or seem to be. In this attitude of conforma-
tion unto Jesus--being conformed to His image--lies our greatest potential and indeed
is the answer to the major problems faced today in the area of interpersonal rela-
tionships.

O Thou, with todes rocheln*lying there, leprous, so weak--
Gasing--now too ill to even cry for help or aid
Art Thou Christ--or me--or brother--too sick to seek
The Savior or indeed to ask Him for His sustenance or grace?

I should have passed Thee by with ne'er a thought at all
But something in Thy eyes stopped me as I saw Thee true and free,
Thou looked on Heaven and a vista far removed from pain and gall,
Thou looked on God and in that frame needed only prayer and love from me.

* "death rattle"

WSR
1/28/81

SAFETY

Safe shall be my going,
Secretly armed against
All death's endeavor
Safe when all safety's lost,
Safe when men fall,
And if these poor limbs die,
 Safest of all.

Rupert Brooke
British aviator killed in action
World War II

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