

Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:12

Topic: The Mistake Of Comparing

INTRODUCTION: In life, it is in human nature to _____ everything including ourselves to some thing or someone else, but according to the Word of God, this is not a _____ thing to do.

I. THINGS WE OFTEN COMPARE:

A. Our Material Possessions:

1. People often compare what they have in material possessions with the _____ that other people in their surrounding have: clothes, shoes, purses and bags, tablets and computers, phones, hair styles, homes cars, and so many other _____ that people have. (more?)
2. This is not something _____ to the human race – it has been going on since the time of the very first family when there was a comparison to the sacrifices of _____ and Abel. Gen. 4:1-5
3. Even among the wealthy and powerful, the competition of comparison goes on as one _____ person tries to outdo another wealthy _____ to see who has the most and the best. I Kings 10:1-7

B. Our Appearance:

1. People also compare their _____ and appearance to other people, and this _____ of comparison is promoted through magazines along with advertising and social media and in the entertainment world.
2. This kind of comparison is also not something _____ as it has been going on since the time of the patriarchs when Jacob ended up with a _____ he did not ask for. Gen. 29:16-17
3. Today, millions of dollars are spent by people trying to make themselves look like some _____ they have seen in a magazine or online, and some pay for surgery to change their _____.

C. Our Abilities:

1. Another sector that people often engage in the comparison game is in the field of abilities and _____ where people who are serious about it enter _____ and competitions to prove how good they are.
2. In the days of the New Testament, the competition was fierce and _____ competed in races and gladiators competed in fights in arenas. I Cor. 9:24
3. This spirit of competition is most evident in our modern world in the field of _____ where large crowds of people pay large amounts of _____ to attend games and see who is the best. I Cor. 9:25,26

II. EACH INDIVIDUAL ON EARTH:

A. Formed By God:

1. The Maker of every human being on _____ is God, who forms each of us in the mother's womb as He purposes and He is the giver of _____ to each individual. Ps. 139:13-16
2. The tall, the short, the male, the female, the red and yellow, black, brown and white, the Lord God Almighty is the _____ of them all. Pr. 22:2

B. Formed For A Purpose:

1. God has made every individual in a special way to fulfil a special _____ on the earth and in His own divine plan, everyone is very _____ to Him. Jer. 29:11
2. No two individuals on earth are exactly the same and the discovery of the DNA has _____ that no one else on earth is exactly like you – you are unique and special in the _____ of God.

3. God made you to be like you are so you can surrender yourself to Him and _____ Him to fulfil a special purpose on earth to _____ to others that He puts in your path.

III. THE MISTAKE OF COMPARING:

A. The Pressure To Compare:

1. Due to the pressure in today's society, which in reality is not a _____ thing, the tendency to do the comparing even enters into the _____ and into ministry.
2. Some people wish that they were like somebody else, or that they had the _____ and talent of another individual and the pressure is on because of comparing _____ to another.

B. The Wrong Thing To Do:

1. The Apostle Paul was not like the Apostle Peter, and James was not like either of them, but they each had a special _____ to do in birthing the Early Church and spreading the _____.
2. There came about a problem in the Early Churches as people started to _____ themselves with one another and people lifting up certain _____ over others. I Cor. 3:3-10
3. The Word of God states very clearly that this business of _____ ourselves to others is a very unwise thing to do, because you are not supposed to be _____ somebody else – you are to be who and what God made you to be for His purpose and glory! 2 Cor. 10:12

C. The Ministry of The Body of Christ:

1. God compares His church to a _____ in which there are many functioning parts, with each part having a particular role to fulfil in the operation of His _____ and church. Rom. 12:3-8
2. The Scripture asks a very simple but easy to understand _____ concerning the functioning of a body – if all the body was just one _____, it could not function, and wouldn't survive. I Cor. 12:13-22
3. God has designed each of us according to His plan so that we may fulfil a job that He has _____ for us to do in this world.

CONCLUSION: You were made by God to be who you _____, and this is not to say that we shouldn't work at getting better at what He has chosen us to do, but we should never compare who and what we are to someone _____ because that is not who God made us to be.