

An Eternal Nip and Tuck

Almost 17 million Americans had plastic surgery last year. Apparently, a personal image still matters to many people.

In research conducted by the NFO WorldGroup, 87 percent of adults would like to change at least one part of their body for appearance reasons. Only 18 percent of men and 10 percent of women are happy enough with their bodies that they wouldn't change a thing.

It seems easy to conclude that we care much more about our physical appearance than we do our innermost, spiritual condition. We are exposed to multiple messages on a daily basis about how to improve our image.

Jesus taught us to focus on the authentic self rather than some contrived image. Jesus spoke hard sayings. He often withdrew from His following into a desert place for prayer. He challenged the self-righteous.

Jesus wasn't concerned with His public persona.

There's a leadership lesson here.

Often, leaders fail to do the right thing because they care more about being liked than they care about being principled. Some leaders consider their "company image" before saying or doing things that are correct, but unpopular.

Our spiritual image is developed "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little" (Is. 28:10).

The spiritual nips and tucks are not plastic.

Plastic things are not eternal.

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Today's Scripture:

"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect comes, then that which is imperfect shall pass away. ... For now we see as through a glass, dimly, but then, face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know, even as I also am known" (1 Cor. 13:9-10, 12).

Platform Tip No. 94

Don't be vague about your message. Be clear. Perfectly clear.

First, be clear about who you are trying to help. Define your audience in very narrow terms.

Second, think narrow cast not broadcast. It's even better to think about just one person in need.

Third, be clear about your frequency. Tell your audience how

often you will show up and then do it. And keep doing it.

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