

You know, many times children say the funniest things. But the 'out of the mouths of babes' expression that we read in Mt. 21:16 refers to the fact that many times there is much to be gained by hearing what they say. For instance, Zach and I have a little Bible quiz that we give each other. Some time ago, I was introducing a new question which would involve knowledge of the first and second greatest commandments. I guess I should not have tried to give them both at once, because he began to get them switched as to which was first. The next day he still had some trouble with it, and by the third day he had evidently found his own solution to the problem, for when I asked him which was the greatest commandment he replied, 'To look pretty'.

Now, that sounds real silly, and I don't know how he came up with it. But it wasn't long before I began to realize that for so many people and even groups of people this was indeed their greatest commandment. Consider today's advertising strategy: Outward beauty is the only thing that is really of importance. The message is that if our outward nature is changed then everything good will happen to us. Somehow it is assumed that inwardly we are all good people; all that keeps us from happiness with another person is to get them hooked by making ourselves attractive to them. We see so few ads offering us a change in personality. Probably anyone with the fortitude to buy that product wouldn't need it anyway.

The same thing happens sometimes with groups. I have worked for places where cleanliness was #1 and getting the job done was 'way on down the list. All that mattered was what the workplace looked like. And I'm afraid that many times in the church we place too much emphasis on the outward form and not enough on a change of heart. Christ made it very clear that the most important things were to have love in our hearts for man and God. Let us not readjust the priorities. We are not authorized to do so. Let us make the supreme effort in our own individual heart to love with the kind of love that Christ had.