

Everybody loves to get a compliment because it makes them feel good about themselves. Sometimes the meaning isn't very clear, however, as in, "You don't sweat much for such a large person."

I've gotten some pretty strange compliments in my life. One of the ones that I remember the most I got after preaching one time in a small congregation. I met the members as they left the building and one said to me, "I really enjoyed your sermon until I fell asleep." Just how do you take a statement like that?

I had not wanted my sermon to be 'enjoyable', exactly, or sleep inducing. But perhaps it was only what I deserved. Which reminds me of what Jack Benny said one time: "I really don't deserve this award. But then, I have arthritis, and I don't deserve that either." In truth, I have found that I don't usually deserve the compliments that I get. So many times people say things to you simply because they want to be nice to you.

It is somewhat ironic that people tell you that you are nice because they are nice. When you get a compliment from someone you need to realize that it really shows how good **they** are! I'll never forget another time that I saw a woman weeping during my sermon. She obviously had a personal problem that she was having to deal with (surely my sermon wasn't that bad), but afterward she was very gracious in complimenting my sermon. She had need of my encouragement, yet she made the effort to encourage me. It was very touching to me!

We must realize that when people brag on us it is a reflection of their goodness, not ours. It is sort of like the sun calling the moon bright. Think about this the next time you are complimented. Did you really do anything that outstanding? Probably not. But those who encourage us in this way are fulfilling their gift and administering God's grace in their own way (1 Peter 4:10).

God compliments us, in a manner of speaking, when he treats us as though we were good enough to be worthy of being called His children (Romans 8:16ff). Jesus did the same thing when he called us friends (John 15:14). But this only reflects how good God is, not how good we are! We know that we act as enemies to God, yet He sent His Son to die for us. We must just take our compliment in the proper perspective and be glad that He loves us so!

If we truly want to feel good, we should compliment others. We must continually try to encourage and uplift others (Hebrews 10:24-25) and this is one way that we can do that. If we count others better than ourselves (Phillipians 2:3), then it should come naturally to us. Let's not expect to be given a compliment, but realize how good people are when they do give us one!

Conclusion:

Jesus: the Good Teacher

Deflect the compliment

Feeling of Humility

Don't get it very often

God is the true power of Good

Heb 10:24, 25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.  
Do we inspire?

Let us compliment. Instead, we want to be complimented.

Where did Jesus compliment someone?

I have not seen such faith, no not in all Israel, Matthew 8:10

We must try to encourage others