

Everybody is a moon, they have a dark side which they never show anyone. Mark Twain

For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin. Psalms 36:2

If someone pays me a compliment, I like to kid around a little and say, 'But you don't know about my *dark side*.' Not that I really believe that there is a great evil there, but I know that I am definitely not perfect, and at the right (or wrong) times my bad side shows itself. Do you remember the Star Wars epics and how they talked about the dark side of the force? I have a Star Wars cube that shows Darth Vader or Ewok, depending on the angle you hold it. This sort of illustrates the point that we all have a mixture of both sides. The people that interact with us see sometimes one side or the other. And we see people that appear so great, but you don't see their dark side until you really get to know them. Sometimes you're already hooked and it's too late to get out of a situation.

The funny thing about the cartoon character Dilbert is that no one can see the Dilbertism in their own lives. It's not just management that is susceptible; the blindness of engineers and secretaries is also apparent. There are several times in the Bible that a man's blindness is pointed out to him in a drastic way. It is done by telling a story about a situation that the listener reacted to with righteous indignation; at this point the teller would say, 'You are the man!' This happened to king Ahab after he let the Syrian king Ben-Hadad free. It also happened to David when his son Absalom was in exile, and after his involvement with Bathsheba. It is interesting to note that even David, a man after God's own heart, had a dark side which he could not totally hide.

C.S. Lewis considered the question of what a man was really like under pressure. He likened it to trying to find out if you had rats in the cellar. If you slam open the door open, turn on the lights and stomp down to the stairs, you probably will not find any rats. But if you quietly tiptoe down the stairs with a flashlight and suddenly turn it on, the unwarned rats, if they exist, will be caught in the beam. The rats would exist no matter what the method of detection was employed. Similarly, we all have some rats in our spiritual cellar; we can't blame our bursts of anger or other darkness on the pressure in our lives. We must realize that they are there and work very hard to eliminate them.

Of course, we will have some help. Some people like nothing better than pointing out to us what they feel is our dark side. There are some that always look at the dark side of people, and when they talk about them they assume the worst possible motives. But they have the same dark side problem, as we read in Matthew 7:1-5:

*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

We must all suppress the darkness in our lives. We can't just throw our bad habits into a closet and have them all dump on us whenever we open the door. We must truly clean our room. We must remember that God is light and in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). God has no dark side. And he can illuminate the remotest corners of our lives so that our dark side can be conquered as well.