



You Look Like Your Father

I have been told all of my adult life how much I resemble my mother. My uncles have even told me that I sound just like her. I always thought I looked more like my father because I was more like him. But, one day recently, I looked in the mirror and realized everyone had been right all along – I do look like my mother. A family resemblance can be comforting. It provides visual confirmation that we belong; we are part of the group.

As Christians we are made in God's image. *When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God* (Genesis 5:1b). We are His children, redeemed and transformed through the death and resurrection of Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, when we take the focus off ourselves and reach out to others in love and kindness, we reflect the love and kindness of Jesus. We show people a glimpse of our heavenly Father.

During Christ's time on earth He touched the lives of people of all ages, beliefs, and ways of life. He loved people. He did not care about their social standing. He cared about their needs as He cared for them physically and spiritually.

Ephesians 2:10 states, *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* God has not only created us for good works, but he has given us a model of what those good works should be. In Matthew 25 Jesus tells us that when we visit prisoners, feed the hungry, care for the sick, and welcome the stranger we are serving Him.

Our good works are not something we do to gain salvation, but something we do out of love and gratitude for God's love and gift of salvation. We love God so much we want to live and act as he would.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we have many opportunities to reach beyond ourselves and show God's love to a lost and erring world. God has prepared good works for each of us. He equips each of us for certain tasks with unique personalities and spiritual gifts. Have you been called to serve as a short term missionary or to lead a Bible study at your church? How about making quilts or teaching Sunday school? Use the gifts and talents God has given you to care for others. But do not get stuck in a rut or reject a new area of service because it is not an area for which you feel equipped. God does not ask if we are capable, only if we are willing. He promises to always be with us and to give us what we need to serve Him.

Our faithful prayers and mighty mites allow us to make a difference in the lives of people in our communities and around the world. We care for them physically and spiritually, just as Christ has taught us.

Can people see the love of Christ through you? Be a Lutheran Woman in Mission, sharing God's love and compassion with a hurting and needy world.

Prayer: Dear Father, You have rescued and redeemed us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, Your Son. Through Holy Baptism, You have made us a part of Your family. Daily You forgive us, renew us, and equip us to love and serve You and others. Help us to make the most of all the opportunities You give us to show Jesus' saving love. Give us willing servant hearts to share Your love and compassion with all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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