

Matthew 23:27 (NLT2)

What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity.

When you see those family pictures posted of the entire family all dressed in white, standing or sitting on the white sandy beach, what do you think of? I don't know about you, but sometimes it makes me think of today's verse and what Jesus said, "*you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity*"

Yet we want that picture perfect family, so we do these pictures of everyone all dressed in white, trying to portray that we have that perfect family, because we know if we took a picture of what our family actually looks like in real life, no one would want to hang it on the wall. Except for One, and that One is God, because He knows all our imperfections and He loves us anyway.

But how often do we see these pictures of families dressed in white and think, "Wow, *who are they trying to fool with that picture?*" The answer is, No one. They know there are imperfections in the family, but isn't it nice to stop looking at those imperfections and see the good in others, including your family? Isn't it time to complain less about others and start spending more time complimenting and building them up instead?

† **1 Thessalonians 5:11** *Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*

Jesus told the parable about how we try to remove the speck from someone else's eye, when we have this log in our own eye. And when I read the Message Bible version, I thought it had an interesting interpretation.

† **Luke 6:41-42 (MSG)** *It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? It's this I-know-better-than-you mentality again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your own part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor.*

Drop the mike, because we try to clean up others, yet we are more filthy with our own sins that we try to hide or cover up. It's time to wake up and be honest with one another, because even if you are able to hide your sins from others, you can't hide them from God. So instead of judging each other, shouldn't we love each other as Jesus taught us to.

† **John 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

So instead of telling others they are not that picture of a family all in white because of their sins, why not love one another and help each another to look like a family all dressed in white as we help one another overcome our sins.

† **James 5:16 (MSG)** *Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.*

† **Proverbs 28:13 (NLT2)** *People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.*