

## Reflection Monday Week 31 – 2023

We should always start the day with this thought from St Paul so that it lies behind everything that we think and do: *“All that exists comes from God; all is by God and for God.”* Jesus drives this home by telling us not to do things for our own good or our own benefit, but always for the well-being of others. Ultimately this means doing it for God’s glory so that God will be given the praise.

One way to do this is to look for the good in others:

A wife had had enough of her husband’s lies, lewd comments about other women, drunkenness, and self-admitted narcissism. She asked to see the pastor of the church she attended; and her husband, who mocked her profession of faith, was willing to go with her. Why did he see the pastor? He said that he was certainly not going to change, but he wanted to *“help her be happier. I love her.”*

The pastor saw the bad. The husband’s sin was flamboyant. And most people would quickly forgive the pastor if he had jumped up and strangled him. However, the pastor entered a different way. He saw the humanness—something of God’s reflection in him. He saw how the man was affected by his wife in his simple willingness to come and seek help with her, and that is good.

*“You are a hybrid if I ever saw one. You are hard as can be on the outside but softer on the inside than you let on. Thank you for coming.”* The pastor was subsequently brought into some of the difficult and painful elements in this man’s life.

Jesus also says: *If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, and you will learn the truth!*