



## Dear Friends,

Over the past month, I've caught up with family and friends that I have not seen for years. When I say 'years', I mean decades. We all look older. There are tell-tale signs of aging. Wrinkles. Grey hair. Bald heads. Tired faces.

On seeing me, both family and friends exclaim, "You look just like your Dad." To be honest, their comment doesn't surprise me. Each day I look in the mirror, I see my father looking back at me.

If you told me in my twenties that I would look just like Dad by the time I reached fifty, I would have been horrified. Who wants to look like their dad when they're still a young man? Our parents are ancient. After all, Dad was 44 years old when I was born. I know my kids all think I'm an old man. They've thought that about me for as long as I can remember, and I was only 34 years old when our youngest was born!

Now that I'm older, and Dad has been dead for almost ten years, I kind of like it that I look like him. For as long as I knew Dad, he had little hair, a moustache and mostly wore glasses with thick black frames. I guess the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree.

I'm also like Dad in a number of ways, apart from physical appearance. I'm the grocery shopper in our family. I also enjoy a good bargain. Like Dad, when I find a good special, I buy up big, just in case the item never comes on special again. And like Dad, I love eating good food and being with family. Growing up with Dad, I guess I learnt a few things along the way.

Reflecting on the ways that I'm becoming more like Dad made me wonder whether I am becoming more like my Heavenly Dad. The Bible talks about this in 2 Corinthians 3:18:

*And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

The goal of God's salvation is the believer's glorification (Romans 8:29-30). It's mind-blowing to think that God saves us, not only for his own glory's sake, but to share his glory with you and me. We share in God's glory by becoming more and more like him. The way in which we do that is to "contemplate the Lord's glory." "The Lord" is none other than Jesus Christ, the divine Son who is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15). It's by contemplating or beholding God's glory as revealed in Christ that we become more like the perfect God-Man, Jesus Christ. Paul Barnett states:

Our transformation is nothing else than a transformation into the moral and spiritual likeness of the now glorified Christ.

Are you becoming more like your Heavenly Father? What would your friends and family say who've not seen you for many years? Would they remark on the difference? And what about those who you live with, work alongside or sit beside at church? What would they say about your patience? Gentleness? Kindness? Goodness?

God Bless,  
Mark Adams