

## YOU LOOK JUST LIKE...

Over the past month I have had several people tell me I look just like somebody they know. It first happened while I was standing in line at Tim Hortons waiting for my usual large double-double. A father and son were standing in line, and the man kept looking back at me. After he placed his order, he turned to me and said, **“Do you know who I mean when I refer to Alex Ferguson?”** I do not follow English Premier Soccer closely, but I have heard his name before and knew he managed Manchester United for a period of time. After I shared my limited knowledge of Alex Ferguson with this man, he replied, **“You look just like him!”** When I got home the first thing I did was search for pictures of Alex Ferguson. I did not see the resemblance personally, but I sure hope if I do look like him, I share more of a likeness to his pictures when he was in his 60's and not in his 80's.

About a week later I was at the Service Canada location in Brantford to renew my daughter's passport. While I was waiting, I started up a conversation with a woman who was there for the same purpose. After asking her if she was planning a trip soon, she asked, **“Is your last name by chance Bradford? You look just like somebody I know from that family.”** I told her I was not familiar with anybody from that family but shared with her how somebody recently thought I looked like Alex Ferguson.

Then last Thursday while I was shopping at No Frills, I happened to be in the bread section when a man looked at me and said, **“Hi Ted!”** When I told him my name was Dean, he replied, **“You look exactly like a Ted that I know.”**

As I reflected upon these three instances it reminded me of some of the other times over the years when people have said that I look so much like somebody they know. Quite a few years ago I was told by somebody that there is a waiter working in Montreal that could be my identical twin. When I coached basketball, I had one of the parents tell me I looked exactly like one of the characters on the TV show Ted Lasso. I can never recall anyone ever telling me I look like Robert Redford, however.

I imagine we have all had similar experiences when somebody has told us we look like someone they know. We often have a resemblance in appearance to one of our parents or family members, but as believers

somebody else we should also begin to look like to others is Jesus. We do not have to wear sandals, nor grow a beard, nor wear our hair longer in order to look like Jesus to others. People should be able to see this in how we are living our lives as a result of Christ's spirit living within us. Paul reminded believers of this when he wrote:

**So, you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father." For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm we are God's children. (Romans 8: 15-16)**

One of the privileges we experience when we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior is we are adopted into God's family. We are also given the gift of the Holy Spirit joining our spirit to help us become more Christ-like in the ways in which we live. One of the ways the Holy Spirit helps us to appear more like Jesus is by developing these fruits of the spirit within us:

**But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5: 22-23).**

The character traits listed by Paul here are the very ones that we see displayed in how Jesus lived His life. By truly knowing Jesus, we can begin to imitate Him by having these same character traits on display in our lives. Now that Paul has reminded us of how we should begin to look like Christ and imitate Him in these ways, which of these traits do we see in ourselves, and hopefully others as well? If we are not yet showing some of these same character traits that Jesus Himself displayed, the problem might be, as Paul suggests, that we are not following the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let's make sure we allow the Holy Spirit to produce these character traits within us.

Wouldn't it be nice to have somebody come up to us one day and say, **"You are looking just like Jesus in the kinds of fruit I am seeing on display in your life."** People seem to think I look a lot like somebody they know. Let's all strive as believers to help people see we are looking more Christ-like.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean