

# The Bulwark

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## WHY HIDE?

By all accounts she is a beautiful woman and exudes self-confidence. She is engaged to Kyle Kuzma a former Los Angeles Laker and now with the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks. She is a world renown "supermodel". But life hasn't always been easy for Canadian born Winnie Harlow of Jamaican decent. At the age of four she was diagnosed with vitiligo, which is a disease that causes depigmentation of the skin. She became the subject of extreme bullying, which eventually led to her dropping out of high school and seriously considering suicide.

In 2011 Harlow posted a video on YouTube entitled "Vitiligo: A Skin Condition, not a Life Changer", which seemed to serve as a life changing declaration. She came to realize she didn't have to cover up the patches of her skin which had lost pigmentation with heavy makeup. In an article about her it was brought out that she asked herself: Why hide? She had come to accept herself and with it found amazing self-confidence. Oliver Cromwell, the noted English statesman was quoted as having told the artist painting his portrait that he wanted to be painted with "pimples, warts and everything you see". Why hide? The same attitude found in both Harlow and Cromwell.

Is there a lesson to be learned? Indeed. "*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God-He created them; male and female he created them.*" (Genesis 1:26) It matters not what we may look like on the outside, all of us are image-bearers of God. The key is on what we look like to God, and what He is concerned with is the inner person, "*let it be the hidden person of the heart*" (1Peter 3:4)

*"For the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'".* (1Samuel 16:7)

The change seen in Paul was dramatic once he

obeyed the gospel. By his own admission he no longer was the person he once was. To the Galatians he wrote, "*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me .*" (2:20) Later on in the same letter he penned, "*Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*" (5:24)



The third chapter of the book of Colossians is an open celebration of one's new life in Christ. "*For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*" (v 3) Paul, then goes on to discuss how the old man had been laid aside and there is an on going renewal in the inner man in order to embrace the "*true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him*" (v 10)

Albert W.T. Orsbom wrote some beautiful lyrics that comprise the song "Let The Beauty of Jesus". The words of the song seem to encapsulate the change brought about when one puts on Christ. Notice the final verse, "From the dawn of the morning to the close of day, in example and deed and in all you say...let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you." It sets forth the acceptance being a christian, and allowing the directives of Christ to be the guiding principle of your life.

Winnie Harlow one day came to the realization she needed not to hide, but to allow her beauty speak for itself. So it must be for us. There is no need to hide, rather we need to let our light shine. "*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*" (Matthew 5:16) Why hide? (wbe)