

## A Legacy in the Making

By Kimberly Sowell

*But we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.  
2 Corinthians 5:11b NKJV*

We moms just love to share all the cute quips our babies say! The other day as we were passing by our local McDonald's, my two-year-old son said, "French fry...where are you?" I looked in my rearview and he could not contain his grin. He knows he's cute.

We attach an association with every business and entity in our communities. My son thinks "french fry" when he sees McDonald's. I think about weddings when I pass our local gift shop, with all of the brides' china patterns registered and on display. That made me wonder: since I am the temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19), what do people think as they pass by me? What do people associate with me as a believer?

Some well meaning elders have told us it doesn't matter what other people think of us, but we need to think again! We don't adjust our actions to fulfill other people's expectations, but the opinions of others do matter if we are trying to be a witness for Jesus Christ. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:11, lest we think we can fool God, we are well known by Him. He sees through our shadowy veils we use to hide our frailties, and He knows the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. Likewise, the people in our spheres of influence may know us better than we think. When they think "Kimberly," or "Sharon", "Susanne" or "Mary Ann," the association they make to each person is not based on what we want to project to the world, but instead on what we truly project.

A precious woman of God who was a friend of mine died recently. As her friends and family gathered to celebrate her life, much could have been said about Diane. She was a beautiful woman with a captivating singing voice and an amazing ability to play the piano, and she was an intelligent woman with a strong work ethic, but what was on everyone's lips was how godly she was. Everything that Diane did and said was enforcing what mattered most to her, which was being a faithful follower of Christ. Because she focused on her walk with Jesus, we could not but attribute godliness as the main characteristic of her life.

You are daily developing your legacy – when you are aware of it, and when your mind is fixed on other matters. People around you are deciding what to associate with your life. They are watching you and learning who you are at your core; what do you want them to associate with your name? May it be a consistent reflection of the Savior, Jesus Christ.