

Positively Speaking

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Diamonds in the Rough

You are a jewel! A treasure! A priceless diamond! There's no one else in this whole world quite like you. You're one of a kind.

You were designed and fashioned by God's hand -- and He doesn't make mistakes. As the old saying goes, "God don't make junk!"

Yes, you're a diamond, and so am I. So is your spouse, your parents, your children, your relatives, your co-workers, your friends. Now, that's a genuine treasure trove!! Shiver me timbers!!

However, there's one little problem. We're still diamonds in the rough: not yet smoothed and polished. Quite a bit of "coalish carbon" remains.

Our rugged edges and odd shapes lead to conflicts, irritations, and misunderstandings with the other "diamonds" around us.

This is why we must go through difficulties. The Master Jeweler knows exactly what is needed to shape us according to the best design and make us shine. He uses the hammer of hardship and the anvil of angst to knock off the rough edges. He takes the file of frustration and shaves off our impatience.

This is why certain people annoy us. It's by design! When sandpaper people rub us the wrong way, it's a good reason to rejoice! We're being buffed and polished!

This is why we have been placed under authority (parents, bosses, teachers, law officers.) The Master Jeweler uses these authorities as His helpers in the diamond polishing workshop.

When we run from trouble, hide from relationships, or angrily resist the authority placed over us, we short-circuit the shining process, and deprive ourselves of necessary character development. Mature attitudes are developed only by learning how to respond to authority, and grow from our grievances.