

TRANSFORMED INTO HIS LIKENESS: A SCRIPTURAL EXAMINATION

Introduction:

1. God calls every Christian not merely to believe, but to grow—to be changed from the inside out (**2 Peter 1:5–8**).
2. This transformation is not arbitrary; it has a goal: to become like Jesus in character, in purpose, and in conduct (**Romans 8:29**).
3. This lesson will explore that calling, consider the character of Christ, and invite each of us to examine whether we are truly becoming like Him (**2 Corinthians 3:18**).

1. The Call To Grow Into The Image Of Christ:

- a. God's Purpose: God's eternal purpose is that we be conformed to the image of His Son (**Romans 8:29**). Spiritual growth is the intended goal of our calling.
- b. The Pursuit Of Holiness: Holiness and godliness are not optional—they are necessary marks of spiritual transformation (**2 Peter 3:11; Hebrews 12:14**).
- c. The Renewal Of The Inner Man: Growth involves putting off the old man and putting on the new man, renewed in knowledge after the image of Christ (**Colossians 3:9–10; Ephesians 4:22–24**).

Key Thought: Our aim is to be conformed to the image of Christ.

2. The Character Of Christ—Our Perfect Model:

- a. Love In Action: Jesus showed selfless, sacrificial love, even toward enemies (**John 13:34–35; Luke 23:34**).
- b. Humility In Service: Though divine, He humbled Himself and served others (**Philippians 2:5–8; John 13:12–15**).
- c. Meekness In Spirit: He was gentle and lowly, never harsh or domineering (**Matthew 11:29; Isaiah 42:2–3**).
- d. Righteousness Without Compromise: He lived without sin and always did the will of His Father (**Hebrews 4:15; John 8:29**).
- e. Faithfulness Unto Death: He remained obedient and loyal even unto death (**Revelation 1:5; Philippians 2:8**).

Key Thought: Jesus is the perfect model of the life we are called to live.

3. Examining Ourselves In The Light Of Christ:

- a. The Duty Of Self-Examination: We are commanded to examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith (**2 Corinthians 13:5**). Self-examination is vital.
 - 1) We begin by honestly comparing our lives to the character of Jesus as revealed in Scripture. This demands sincere, humble reflection—not shallow or self-flattering assessments (**Hebrews 4:12**).
 - 2) A second approach is to ask others for feedback about our character. This can be helpful, but it comes with uncertainty: some may speak truthfully, while others may withhold criticism out of fear of offending us.
 - 3) Even positive feedback can be misleading, as we can never be fully sure of its honesty or accuracy. The safest and most reliable measure is always the mirror of God's Word.
- b. The Mirror Of The Word: The Word of God acts as a mirror, revealing how closely our lives resemble Christ's (**James 1:23–25**).
- c. The Cost Of Discipleship: To follow Christ means daily self-denial and purposeful imitation of His character (**Luke 9:23; 1 John 2:6**).

Key Thought: We must measure our lives against the character of Christ.

Conclusion:

1. We have not been called to stay as we are, but to grow into Christ-likeness, bearing His image more fully each day (2 Corinthians 4:16).
2. The character of Jesus is not beyond us—it is the standard set before us, empowered by the Spirit and guided by the Word (Galatians 5:22–23).
3. Let each one ask: Am I becoming more like Christ? And if not, what must change today? (James 4:8–10).

Applications:

1. Make it your daily aim to reflect the character of Christ in your thoughts, speech, and actions (Romans 13:14).
2. Set aside time each week to examine your growth and ask whether you are truly becoming more like Jesus (Lamentations 3:40).
3. Identify one area of Christ's character you struggle with and prayerfully work to strengthen it this week (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Questions:

1. What does Paul teach us about God's purpose for His people (Romans 8:29)?
2. According to Peter, what kind of people ought we to be (2 Peter 3:11)?
3. What does Paul reveal about the humility of Christ (Philippians 2:5–8)?
4. How does James describe the Word of God in relation to self-examination (James 1:23–25)?
5. What does Jesus say is required of a true disciple (Luke 9:23)?

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Questions & Answers

1. What does Paul teach us about God's purpose for His people (**Romans 8:29**)?

Answer: God's purpose is that we be conformed to the image of His Son—Christ-likeness is His goal for every believer (**Romans 8:29**).

2. According to Peter, what kind of people ought we to be (**2 Peter 3:11**)?

Answer: We ought to be people of holy conduct and godliness as we look for the coming of the Lord (**2 Peter 3:11**).

3. What does Paul reveal about the humility of Christ (**Philippians 2:5–8**)?

Answer: It shows that Christ, though equal with God, humbled Himself and became a servant, obedient even to death (**Philippians 2:5–8**).

4. How does James describe the Word of God in relation to self-examination (**James 1:23–25**)?

Answer: It describes the Word as a mirror that shows us who we truly are—whether we are doers or merely hearers (**James 1:23–25**).

5. What does Jesus say is required of a true disciple (**Luke 9:23**)?

Answer: A true disciple must deny himself daily, take up his cross, and follow Jesus (**Luke 9:23**).