

Casas Adobes Baptist Church  
Sunday Morning, August 28, 2005  
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Fashioning the IMAGE of god  
SG Series #3  
S-1683

Gallup polls reveal that the majority of people have something about themselves that they don't like. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would you change? Consider this, how would you like to change to be more like Christ? God longs for every Christian to grow up to look like Jesus. Meditate for a moment on the implications of 2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." This change we all would applaud.

REVIEWING THE CONCEPT OF LORDSHIP

REVIEWING THE PROCESS OF IMAGE MAKING

Hebrews 5:8-9: "Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

Romans 8:28-29: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son ..."  
Note that the purpose of these verses is to conform us to the image of Christ.

VIDEO: Much can be gleaned about our spiritual level by how we handle trials when they come. The more spiritually mature we are the more likely we are to say, "Thanks God, You will use even this experience to make us look more like Jesus."

Miles Stanford: "The open secret of healthy spiritual growth is to know and settle upon this fact as set forth in Romans 8:28-29. When we see that all things are working together to make us more and more like the Lord Jesus, we will not be frustrated and upset when some of these "things" are hard, difficult to understand, and often contain an element of death. We will be able to rest in our Lord Jesus and say to our Father, 'Thy will be done.' And our constant attitude of faith will be: 'Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him' (Job 13:15). This is our matriculation to spiritual maturity."

THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE CROSS

Matthew 16:24: "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" Where did Jesus take His cross? To Golgotha. What did He do on it there? He died on it. In contemporary terms Jesus Christ called all followers to get into the electric chair and sacrifice their lives.

The cross is not some horrible experience that decimates the essence of personality. The cross is a basic tool for developing Christians to look like Jesus. To live the life of Jesus Christ—to experience the resurrection power—is predicated on the fact that no one ever had a resurrection until he or she first had a death. The resurrected life can only follow the death of our self-reliance, self-centeredness, and self-condemnation.

Philippians 3:10-11: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Dying On A Cross Hurts.

A.W. Tozer: "It is doubtful that God has ever used a man greatly until He has first hurt him deeply."

1 Peter 1:6: "In this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These trials have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold which perishes, even though refined by fire, may be proved genuine and may result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

James 1:2-4: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." He continued, "Understand, young man, troubles and problems are what produce patience."

The processing of Elijah is a classic example of how God used the sanctifying cross to mold a man of God. 1 Kings 17:1 begins with the statement, "Elijah the Tishbite." Tishbe was Elijah's home town. The chapter concludes in verse 24 by describing Elijah as "the man of God." What happened in those twenty-four verses transformed Elijah from "Elijah the Tishbite," into "Elijah the man of God."

Dying On A Cross Takes Time.

God is in no hurry. Spiritual growth takes time. "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians

1:6).

Miles Stanford: "It takes God one hundred years to make a mighty oak. He can turn out a squash in six weeks."

There Is No Such Thing As Self-Crucifixion.

We don't engineer our own spiritual processing. Crucifixion is God's work, not ours. Some are open, submissive and desiring God's work in their lives.

Those He need only bend a little. Some have so much pride and self-dependence that God has much breaking yet to do.

By the way, no one can speed up God's process; but he or she certainly can slow it down.

INTERVIEW: Bible Fellowships surround us with supporting and helpful people during the journey.