

*To Be
Like Jesus*

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Conforming to Christ's Image

To Be Like Jesus - Session One

Conforming to Christ's Image

Key Verse: (1 Peter 1:15-16) "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (16) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

If we want to be like Christ, we must strive to be a holy people. Holiness is based on the nature of God. (Leviticus 11:45-46) "For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. (46) This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth."

We must strive to be like Christ (holy) in all our conduct. How to get started... (1 Peter 1:13-14, God's Word) "Therefore, your minds must be clear and ready for action. Place your confidence completely in what God's kindness will bring you when Jesus Christ appears again. (14) Because you are children who obey God, don't live the kind of lives you once lived. Once you lived to satisfy your desires because you didn't know any better."

1. The first thing that we do is to prepare our minds for action.
2. The second thing is to be self-controlled.
3. Then we set our hope fully upon God's grace, waiting for Christ's coming.
4. The forth thing is to be obedient to God.
5. Lastly, we are not to conform to evil desires but to God's holiness.

Conforming to Christ's Image.

1. God's holiness means He is absolutely pure and perfect.
2. We can become holy by conforming to His character and will... (Matthew 5:48) "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."
3. Specifically, we are to conform to the image of Christ... (Romans 8:29) "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."
 - Put on the Lord Jesus Christ instead of the "flesh" (Romans 13:14) "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."
 - Let Christ be formed in us... (Galatians 4:19) "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you."
 - Learn Christ and be recreated after Him... (Ephesians 4:20-24) "But ye have not so learned Christ; (21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: (22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after

God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

- Let Christ’s mind be in us...
(Philippians 2:5) “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”
- We ask the question, What would Jesus do?

Motivation and Enabling

By grace through faith... (1 Peter 1:13) “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

By love... (John 14:15) “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

By the Holy Spirit... (Romans 8:1-4, 13) “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit... (13) For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

Like an eagle, we soar above sin (gravity)... (Romans 8:10) “And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

Like a rocket, we will totally escape this world of sin one day... (Romans 8:11) “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

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A Separated Life

To Be Like Jesus / Session Two

A Separated Life

Key Verse: (2 Corinthians 6:17) “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

Some people feel that we do not need to be Christ-like or in other words a holy people. However, the Scriptures say... (Hebrews 12:14) “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

Some say that Jesus never meant for His church to be about rules, regulations, and guilt. However the Scriptures say...

(2 Timothy 2:5) “And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”

(Matthew 28:20) “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

(Acts 2:37-38) “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? (38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Separation

We are to be a separate people because we are: The Temple of God, The People of God, and The Children of God.

(2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1-NKJV) “Be all of you not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness? (15) And what concord has Christ with Belial? or what part has he that believes with an infidel? (16) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? for all of you are the temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be all of you separate, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. (18) And will be a Father unto you, and all of you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. (7:1) Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

We are a separate people for a higher purpose in our lives. To be like Jesus. To see Him! We become more like Jesus when we cleanse ourselves both inside and outside. As we learn more about Jesus, we then can grow to be more like Him. To be like Jesus is a growth process. (2 Peter 3:18) “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Definition of Holiness

For God: He is absolute in perfection and purity. (Hebrews 7:26) “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.”

For Humans: We are to conform to His character and will. (Philippians 2:5) “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Conforming to be Christ-Like is twofold: #1. separation (sanctification) from, and #2. dedication to. Areas of separation are: attitude, thoughts, stewardship of the body, the tongue, the eye, appearance, and amusement.

Dedication for an intimate relationship with God. (Exodus 33:13-23-NKJV)
“Now therefore, I pray you, if I have found grace in your sight, show me now your way, that I may know you, that I may find grace in your sight: and consider that this nation is your people. (14) And he said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest. (15) And he said unto him, If your presence go not with me, carry us not up behind. (16) For wherein shall it be known here that I and your people have found grace in your sight? is it not in that you go with us? so shall we be separated, I and your people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. (17) And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that you have spoken: for you have found grace in my sight, and I know you by name. (18) And he said, I plead to you, show me your glory. (19) And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. (20) And he said, You can not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. (21) And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and you shall stand upon a rock: (22) And it shall come to pass, while my glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with my hand while I pass by: (23) And I will take away mine hand, and you shall see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”

Holiness is the basis for God’s miraculous deliverance. (Joshua 3:5) “And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

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A Dedicated Life

To Be Like Jesus - Session Three

A Dedicated Life

Key Verses: (Romans 12:1-2) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Romans 12:1

(Romans 12:1) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Beseech: Plead, urge

By the mercies of God: in view of salvation

Present: yield, consecrate, dedicate

Bodies: whole being including outward man

Living sacrifice: voluntary submission of will

Holy: separated and dedicated

Acceptable unto God: well-pleasing

Reasonable service: logical, intelligent, spiritual worship

Romans 12:2

(Romans 12:2) “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold” (Phillips)

“Do not live according to the fashions of the times” (Norlie)

“Stop living in accordance with the customs of this world” (Williams)

Be not conformed: fashioned after, adapted to, molded by

This world: value system; worldly thinking; lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life, (1 John 2:15-17) “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind: new way of thinking, new values.

How do we renew our minds? (Philippians 4:8) “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Prove the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God: know and obey God's will. This is good for us, acceptable to God, and perfect in every way.

How do we dedicate ourselves to God? We think and act according to the will of God. We determine that we are going to be like Jesus. (Philippians 2:5) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

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A Covenant With Our Eyes

To Be Like Jesus - Session Four

Key Verses: (Job 31:1-4, NIV) “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl. For what is man’s lot from God above, his heritage from the Almighty on high? Is it not ruin for the wicked, disaster for those who do wrong? Does he not see my ways and count my every step?”

Significance of the Eye

(Luke 11:34-35-NKJV) “The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness.”

(Matthew 6:23-NKJV) “If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

Proper Use of the Eye

(1 John 2:15-17) “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

(Isaiah 33:15-16, GodsWord) “The person who does what is right and speaks the truth will live. He rejects getting rich by extortion and refuses to take bribes. He refuses to listen to those who are plotting murders. He doesn't look for evil things to do. (16) This person will live on high. His stronghold will be a fortress made of rock. He will have plenty of food and a dependable supply of water.”

(Psalm 119:37-38-NKJV) Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity (worthless things); and you restore life in me in your way. (38) Establish your word unto your servant, who is devoted to your fear.

(Psalm 101:1-4, GodsWord) “I will sing about mercy and justice. O LORD, I will make music to praise you. (2) I want to understand the path to integrity. When will you come to me? I will live in my own home with integrity. (3) I will not put anything wicked in front of my eyes. I hate what unfaithful people do. I want no part of it. (4) I will keep far away from devious minds. I will have nothing to do with evil.”

(Matthew 5:28-29) “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. (29) And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”

Practical Application

1. Controlling lust
2. Reading material
3. Movies
4. Television
5. Video

6. Internet

Conclusion

“I made a covenant with my eyes” (Job 31:1).

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Christian Apparel - Part 1

To Be Like Jesus - Session Five

Christian Apparel - Part 1

Does God really care what we wear?

(Genesis 3:21-NKJV) Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

(Revelation 3:18) I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Inward and Outward Holiness

(2 Corinthians 7:1) Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Holiness is both inward and outward. Inward holiness is by far the most important, but we should not neglect outward holiness. We should have a visible consecration. In our lives we must avoid both legalism and license (a license - do anything and say that it does not matter with God how we act and dress).

Modesty

(1 Timothy 2:8-10,NKJV) I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. (9) In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with reverence and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; (10) But (which becomes women professing godliness) with good works.

Modest -

- Not drawing attention to or discussing sexuality, and so unlikely to offend or arouse others.
- Behaving, dressing, speaking, etc. in a way that is considered proper or decent.
- Conforming to an accepted standard of moral behavior in actions, dress, and speech.

In 1 Timothy 2:9 God says that He wants women to show their beauty by dressing in appropriate clothes that are modest and respectable. Their beauty will be shown by what they do, not by their hair styles or the gold jewelry, pearls, or expensive clothes they wear.

Negative Examples

Jezebel: “Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window” (2 Kings 9:30, NKJV).

God's Judgment on Babylon: "Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall

Another Apostolic Witness

(1 Peter 3:3-4) Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; (4) But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

To be like Jesus is to be holy inside and out. Living, acting, dressing, and speaking the way Christ wants us to.

Christian Apparel - Dressing in a way that Christ would approve.

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Christian Apparel - Part 2

To Be Like Jesus - Session Six

Key Verse: (I Samuel 16:7) Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Does God really care what we wear? God knows the heart, and when it was time to choose a king, God chose one based on their character not on their physique. However, God teaches about appearance because people *do* look on the outward and express their values outwardly.

Distinction Between Sexes

(Deuteronomy 22:5, NKJV) The woman shall not wear that which pertains unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD your God.

Distinction Between Sexes

- “Abomination unto God”: moral teaching
- “Pertains”: clear distinction in all cultures
- There should be distinction between the sexes even from a distance

(Genesis 24:64-65) And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. (65) For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us?

Distinction between the sexes gives honor to our authority.

(1 Corinthians 11:1-6, NKJV) Be all of you followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. (2) Now I praise you, brethren, that all of you remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. (3) But I would have you know, that the head (authority) of every man is Christ; and the head (authority) of the woman is the man; and the head (authority) of Christ is God. (4) Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonours his head (authority). (5) But every woman that prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head (authority): for that is even all one as if she were shaven. (6) For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

What is Covering?

(1 Corinthians 11:14-15, NKJV) Does not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? (15) But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

Conclusion:

God still wants a witness in society for the distinction between male and female. If the church doesn't provide it, who will? God always gives us a choice in serving Him. We didn't choose our gender, but by our dress, our hair, and our actions we can either ratify or reject God's will for us.

(I Samuel 16:7) But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or

on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

People look on our appearance and determine what type of person we are. We are a witness, by the way we act, dress, and speak. The question is, what type of witness are we?

(Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The first church was a good witness to the world. Do we want to do the same? Do we want to show Christ to a world that needs Him?

This concludes our series “To Be Like Jesus.” Paul said, “**Be all of you followers of me, even as I also am of Christ**” (1 Corinthians 11:1). In others words, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ” (GodsWord). Let us imitate Jesus in our actions and speech.

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