

“THIS I KNOW!”

Part 7: “Sanctification: Becoming Like Christ”

I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Romans 6:1-23, 8:29; II Peter 1:3-11; Philippians 2:12-13, 3:12-14; II Corinthians 3:17-18; I John 3:1-3



Introduction: **I Thessalonians 4:1-8:** “For this is the will of God: your sanctification” (vs. 3).

Romans 8:29 ... It is conformity to Christ that is the goal of “sanctification.”

Hebrews 10:14; Ephesians 1:13-14 ... Believers are not alone in this sanctification process or we would surely fail!

By the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit believers are in the process of becoming like Christ!

Living as disciples of Jesus Christ is not about trying to be “good,” it is about pleasing “Abba, Father” (Philippians 2:12-13).

I. “Christlikeness” is our calling ...

One of the clearest marks of the true believer is that you have the desire to please God, your Father in heaven.

Romans 12:1-2: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship!” (vs. 1).

A radical change has taken place within every person who has been baptized by the Spirit of Christ and united with Christ. (**Romans 6:12-23** ...).

Your calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ is to set your heart on being obedient to GOD’s standard.

God’s calling for believers, who by His grace are disciples of Jesus, empowered by His Spirit, has more to do with our character than with mere outward behavior.

II. “Christlikeness” is our goal ...

Our first point tells us what we should be focused on ... our second point is a commitment to BE focused on it!!

You may PRAY for God to change your heart and yet neglect the very thing that GOD says HE will use to do so: His WORD! (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).

The spiritual and numerical growth experienced by “the Acts 2 church” followed their DOING what God told them to do ... from pursuing the goal of “Christlikeness!”

It is our goal to be used of God to produce disciples of Jesus Christ!

II Peter 1:3-11: “Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election ...” (vs. 10).

Philippians 3:12-16: “... I press on to make it my own ... straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize ...” (vss. 12-14, see also verses 17-21, 4:1).

How much EFFORT are you putting toward reaching the goal of “Christlikeness” ... into spiritual growth???

III. “Christlikeness” is our destiny!!

I John 3:1-3: “... but we (the children of God) KNOW that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is” (vs. 2).

THIS is where “free will” comes in ... in our sanctification.

Ephesians 4:20-24 ... As one who has been born again by the Spirit ... your will is now free to make better choices, ones that honor GOD!

II Corinthians 3:16-18: “... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all (believers) ... are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”

You and I who believe WILL get there! This is our destiny!!

By the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit believers are in the process of becoming like Christ!