

3-27-16
HOW TO BE LIKE JESUS CHRIST

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Galatians 2:18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

Galatians 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

As we approach Easter, I thought it would be good to preach some messages about our precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the reason we are gather together this morning.

Jesus is the reason we have salvation.

Jesus is who we preach.

Old cliché: ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME: ALL MESSAGES SHOULD LEAD TO JESUS:

Jesus said.. search the Scriptures.. they are that testify of me..

FIRST WE NEED TO DISCERN WHO HE REALLY IS.

THEN WE NEED TO CONSIDER THE GREATEST OBSTACLE OF BEING LIKE HIM.

THEN WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS OF BEING LIKE HIM.

FINALLY WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT THE OUTCOME OF BEING LIKE HIM.

Consider - any Christian that is not like Jesus is not a good Christian..

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

I. BEFORE WE CAN BE LIKE HIM WE NEED TO DEFINE WHO HE IS

If Christ does not live in your heart and you are not being conformed into His image and you are not saved:

Our Supreme Purpose should be to **live** for Jesus.

Our Supreme Goal in life should be to **be like** Jesus.

Our Supreme Desire should be to **love** Jesus.

Our Supreme Activity in this life is to **be serving Jesus**.

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

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.

Illust. We are not called Christians just because the name sounds good.

We are called Christians because the world at one time said all these people who are disciples are just like Jesus Christ!

Important: This is our supreme purpose:

There are many people that say.. we all worship the same God..

I am sorry that is NOT true.. and in fact this is the essence of idolatry.. in other words there are some that say.. Allah and Christ.. are the same.. they are not the same..

In fact the Bible says.. that the Christ that many people preach is not the same Christ of the Bible..

Paul warned.. that some had come in his day preaching another Jesus..

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

II Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached ye might well bear with him.

Paul said.. there were people in his day going around preaching another Jesus.. who was not the same Jesus.. that he preached..

So if that is the case.. How is it that some really believe that the God of the Moslems.. is the same God we worship .. Our God doesn't tell us to do some of the things.. these people do..

The Jesus of the Jehovah's witnesses.. is not the same Jesus that we preach
The Jesus of the Liberal Christian is not the same Jesus that we preach..

When I was in college in Humanities class the professor brought a theologian in and he talked about a historical Jesus He was not the same Jesus that we know from the Bible. He was the illegitimate Child of Mary from a German Roman soldier.. He was a kind of Hippie in his day.. He wasn't God in the flesh.. he never wanted to start an institution called the church..

NOW I TELL YOU THIS JESUS IS NOT THE SAME JESUS WE PREACH TO YOU FROM THIS PULPIT.. Just because someone preaches about Jesus does not mean it is the same Jesus we preach...

The essence of Idolatry is that you form a god after your own fancy.. and imagination ..

Isaiah 44:14 He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it.

Isaiah 44:15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto.

Isaiah 44:16 He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire:

Isaiah 44:17 And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

Isaiah 44:18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

Isaiah 44:19 And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?

In old times they fashioned their gods from word.. gold silver.. etc.. Today we fashion our gods from our imagination and call that god.. JESUS..

II. TO BE LIKE HIM WE NEED TO OVERCOME THE GREATEST OBSTACLE OF BEING LIKE JESUS:

You:

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The life that I used to live needs to be crucified, and I need to let Christ live in me:

This is illustrated when we realize Jesus said:

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Illust. You keep popping out of the casket.....
You must decrease and He must increase:

Illust. We live in a world that is too self motivated.
We live in a humanistic society that deifies man;
We live in a I WILL EXALT MY THRONE GENERATION.
We have our own agendas:
We have our own goals:
We have our own desires:

To be conformed into the image of Christ.. we need to be crucified..

The old self needs to be crucified with Christ.. and then we will be dead to sin and alive to Christ..

Galatians 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

III. TO BE LIKE HIM WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS OF BEING LIKE HIM:

CONSIDER:

THE IMPORTANCE OF DEFINING WHO HE IS..

THE OBSTACLES OF BEING LIKE HIM.. Our old nature..

THE PROCESS OF BEING LIKE HIM.

THE OUTCOME OF BEING LIKE HIM.

1. First we must be saved and receive His spirit:

It all starts with salvation:

By faith .. when we believe the gospel message and humble ourselves and ask the Lord into our hearts, He sends His spirit into our hearts and we are born again of the spirit of God. Then we are united with Christ in spirit..

SO WHEN HE DIED, WE DIED.

WHEN HE WAS BURIED, WE WERE BURIED..

WHEN HE AROSE, WE AROSE..

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. **Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

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.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Just like we were in Adam .. and when Adam sinned we sinned and all became sinners in Adam...

So too when we receive His spirit we are in Christ.. and when Jesus died and suffered for sin.. we also died and entered into that work.. and when He arose we too arose.

I Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

I Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

I Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

2. *Secondly we must want to be conformed to the promptings of the Spirit*

Yielding conformity to the leadership of the HOLY SPIRIT...

The Holy Spirit will not bully people into subjection.

Our relationship with Christ is a marriage, not a bondage, or slave / master relationship. We submit lovingly, and the Holy Spirit leads in love....

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.

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.

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

3. *Thirdly we must be willing to live a disciplined life to be like Christ*

The Bible likens our Spiritual Walk to that of Running race:

I Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

I Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I Corinthians 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

I Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

The Word disciple means disciplined one:

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Illust. It takes discipline and work, to be like Jesus..

Illust. We must want it bad enough to work at it, and struggle with it...
ASK and it shall be given to you...

IV. CONSIDER THE OUTCOME OF BEING LIKE CHRIST

1. OTHERS WILL SEE IT AND IT WILL BRING A RESPONSE:

I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

What was the response that Jesus got.....

Note: He as a person and as far as His works He was well received:

It was His doctrine that brought the disdain of men especially religious leaders, they were offended at His word....

The world hated that He testified of their wickedness...

A. SOME WILL HATE YOU

B. SOME WILL GLORIFY GOD AND BE DRAWN TO THE JESUS WHO WE SEEK TO EMULATE

Matthew 10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Conclusion:

This is what it is all about,

Being like Jesus:

Illust. The reason I got saved - I thought, how is it that this Person Jesus Christ, could influence the lives of so many people, for the better,

Years ago when Peter Accardi got saved I realize, what happened to him was not a bad thing it was good. Though the world around me made light of it as if something horrible happened to Peter... This impressed me even more. Why did they not say "GOOD FOR YOU.. " You found the Lord.

I saw what Jesus did also in others, what Jesus did was a good work.... People were affected for the better not the worse. Yet, why did people reject what He did?

So it is we should show others how the Lord has changed us for the better, not the worse:

Illust. People need to see a positive testimony for Jesus Christ....

Too many people are able to point to negative examples and testimonies

Conclusion:

One of the things that the devil does to get people confused is to get wacky people talking about Jesus. What happens is confusion .. These people draw attention to their crazy life instead of Jesus. This type of witness is Demonic and Devilish.

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

Acts 16:17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

Acts 16:18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Acts 16:19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

Acts 16:20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

Acts 16:21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

Note the confusion: this woman is saying all the right words, "Paul was a servant of the most high.. people should hear him.. However, the spirit in which she was saying it was of the devil. She was drawing more attention to herself than Jesus. And she was filled with the devil. She had a bad spirit.

Just because people witness does not mean they are filled with the Spirit and are like Jesus.

Note also when she was delivered of this demon by Paul, instead of the world saying this is a good thing they got mad at Paul. Why? Because of the filthy gain they received from her demonic powers.

So it is today. You would think people would be happy when others get saved. They are not. So it is, that this satanic world is more tolerant of radical Moslems than born again Christians. Rome persecuted Christians because they said there is only one true God. If they had acknowledged the gods along with Jesus there would have been no problem.

Why was Demetrius so angry in the book of Acts..

Acts 19:24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

Acts 19:25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

Acts 19:26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

Acts 19:27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

Acts 19:28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

Demetrius was upset because of the loss of gain in this world that true born again Christians were causing. Everyone who came to Christ was one less person who would buy one of Demetrius' shrines.

So those who were in authority, those who faced loss of gain, in this world were the ones who persecuted the Lord. Do you really think anything has changed? Take a look at the contention and strife in our political arena today and tell me anything has changed.

If they hated him back in his day, how do you think they will respond to true Christians today?

John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.