

LIKE CHRIST

-Ryan Parsons-

We read a lot in our Bibles about a life described with the words *new, transformed, regeneration, and renewal*. What is that all about? It boils down to one central theme for those who have yielded their lives to God in Christ Jesus. That is, God wants us to progressively become more like Christ until we are reunited with him in eternity. Paul mentions it repeatedly.

It was God's pre-determined plan for our lives to be molded into lives that resemble Jesus.

Romans 8:29

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

This change or conformity is so that our thoughts and actions would fall into conformity with his will.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

This change is not under our control or muscled out by our own gumption. Instead, it is empowered by the power of the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

This newness is what God is calling us to live into each day.

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

When I wake up in the morning, I usually have a "to-do" list that springs into my mind. This checklist dictates what I do and the sequence of events for the next 18 hours. Each day, that list changes. However, one thing should be at the top of my list and remain there every day. The number one task that I should commit my energies to is to become more LIKE CHRIST in all that I do.

May God bless you in your "to-do" list this week. Don't forget to keep "Like Christ" at the top.

Peace,

Ryan