

Eternity Daily Bible Study

“Walking As He Walked”: Living By Christ's Commandments

Studies in this series can also be found online at www.globalchristians.org/walkchrist/

Thank you to all those who are supporting the ministry of Eternity Daily Bible Study. You may [donate securely online](#) even just a dollar will help!

Topic 2: Being In The Image of God

Date: 3rd May 2010

What is the true image of God? Paul tells the Athenians that it is humankind – we are His children! The true image of God is perfected humanity – not an object of gold or silver or wood or stone!

Acts 17:29 ISV *So if we are God's children, we shouldn't think that the divine being is like gold, silver, or stone, or is an image carved by human imagination and skill.*

Now we have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) and thus reflect God's image imperfectly. In fact the very purpose of our salvation is for us to be fully “conformed” to the image of God's beloved Son. Which is even God's eternally decided plan – that is for us to be changed, rearranged, renewed and made like Jesus:

Romans 8:29 ISV *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 transformation is accomplished through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit who changes us from glory to glory:

2 Corinthians 3:18 EMTV *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Now this transformation into the image of God is an actual real thing that will be reflected in concrete and tangible ways – particularly in our behavior and in our relationships. Our new identity will result in a new reality:

Colossians 3:9-14 MKJV *Do not lie to one another, having put off the old man with his deeds (10) **and having put on the new, having been renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,** (11) where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, foreigner, Scythian, slave or freeman, but Christ is all things in all. (12) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender feelings of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, (13) forbearing one another and forgiving yourselves, if anyone has a complaint against any. As Christ forgave you, so also you do. (14) And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness.*

This process of Holy Spirit transformation will be brought to a climax at the resurrection when we shall discover that we are “like Him”:

1 John 3:1-3 EMTV *Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God! On account of this the world does not know you, because it did not know Him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. (3) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

This transformation shall come about as we fully behold Christ and “see Him as He is” (v.2 above) and this “beholding Him” is also part of our process of daily transformation (2 Corinthians 3:18 above).

So then, if we are to “walk as He walked” we must also “behold Him as He is” in a close faith relationship known as “abiding” that becomes the basis of all personal transformation and obedience.

The degree to which we are transformed into the image of Christ determines how obedient we can be. Unless the inner work is done the outer work is impossible. Which is why faith must always precede works. We have to believe before we can change and we must change before we can do.

Now deeds also reinforce faith, our doing helps our abiding, and faith works through love to accomplish good deeds that God has prepared beforehand for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). The doing establishes the inner change in place and is the fruit which is borne by faith. The image of God is not just a theoretical, theological or existential thing – it is a genuinely new nature that results in new habits and new ways of living and of relating to others (see Colossians 3:9-14 above).

As God's workmanship we are to do God's works:

Ephesians 2:10 MKJV *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.*

So “being in His image” becomes the goal and the framework of the entire Christian life. No less a theologian than John Stott has said this and his article is well worth perusing: <http://www.langhampartnership.org/2007/08/06/john-stott-address-at-keswick/>

We cannot be satisfied with anything less than being like God in our new nature (our old nature, the flesh, will never be like God and has to be “crucified”). We are to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:15,16), and to be perfect as he is perfect (Matthew 5:44-48) and we are even to share in the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). Heaven is made for those who want to be like God.

Now we don't become like God in omnipotence or knowledge or omnipresence. We become like God in our nature – in love, justice, mercy, and righteousness. We must prepare ourselves for this transformation because it will mean a huge change as we give up sin and unbelief and complaining and many other things in order to “shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” (Philippians 2:14,15).

Being in the image of God means forsaking being in the image of anything or anyone that is lesser than God. Jesus (and not the rich and famous) is to be our role model.

So we cannot settle down to some ho-hum form of Christianity where we just turn up on Sunday, put our money in the plate and hope we arrive in Heaven one day. God did not create us to merely pay, pray, sing, sit and applaud. In fact before we arrive in Heaven – we should discover that Heaven has arrived in us and that the Kingdom of God is “within us”. We need to be part of a process of going from glory to glory!

Thus the starting point for effective discipleship is having the right goal and that is “being in the image of God” and the right means: Scripture, prayer and the anointing of the Holy Spirit (for it is only God who can make such vast changes in our nature).

Sometimes we get very muddle-headed and imagine the goal is something other than Christ e.g. being a good church member, or a great evangelist or a bible scholar. Now these are all good things but they are not ultimate things. One person may reflect Christ by being a great evangelist, another by being a wonderful pastor and yet another by raising ten children in the faith. The job is not the main point. Christ is the main point and the job is merely a means we use to express Christ.

In fact it is absolutely no use being a pastor or an evangelist or a missionary if it makes you mean, grumpy and unloving. If the ministry is making you less like Jesus (and for some people it does) then by all means leave the ministry. Your job as a human being is to become like Jesus and all other jobs are very, very secondary to that task.

Blessings,

[John Edmiston](#)

Chairman/ CEO Cybermissions
Pastor – Eternity Christian Fellowship
<http://www.eternitychristian.com>
<http://www.cybermissions.org>
<http://www.globalchristians.org>
<http://www.newtestamentprayer.org>

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ONLINE MINISTRY OF JOHN & MINDA EDMISTON – to get our prayer points send a blank email to jednews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

REFER OTHERS: If this devotional is a blessing to you, maybe you have a friend or family member that would like to start receiving this daily bible study. You can forward this to them, and they can use the following link to subscribe. <http://www.globalchristians.org/eternity/> or they can just send a blank email to: eternity-dbs-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org

PREVIOUS EBOOKS & EDBS ARCHIVES: <http://www.globalchristians.org/eternity/>

You are receiving this email because you either subscribed on the website, or sent an email to the subscribe address. We do not subscribe people without their consent.

To subscribe - send a blank email to:
eternity-dbs-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org

To unsubscribe - send a blank email to:
eternity-dbs-unsubscribe@strategicnetwork.org