

We will be like Him

‘For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.’ 1 Cor 13:12



‘Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.’

1 John 3:2

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Jesus came that we might be like Him	1
Obedience is the way Jesus lives in us	6
Jesus puts a high price on becoming like Him	8
We need to grow in holiness to be like Him	12

Jesus came that we might be like Him

'Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.' 1 John 3:2

'For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.' Rom 8:29

New believers in Jesus Christ were to be His disciples, for if we follow what Jesus taught there is no other way to enter into eternal life than to follow Jesus. There was never any intent in Jesus's mind that people would become Christians first and not first take up their cross to be disciples and follow Him. But history has shown us that it became the aim of the Church that we should get people saved as Christians and not make disciples.

The whole idea of making disciples who would walk as Jesus walked in obedience to Him in all He taught, teaching all He has commanded us to

teach was soon forgotten. It is one thing to declare the love of God for all men; it is entirely another to say that those who love Him will obey all His commandments if they want to receive His eternal life.

The result is that many in the Church today cannot give a sound biblical reason for their faith. They don't seem to be able to say that Jesus came to deal with sin so the repentant can believe in Him and be forgiven in order to receive a new life so they can walk with God in obedience and truth. Instead, by default, the Church offers eternal life to all who will come to Church on their own terms.

For far too long the Church in many places has been more interested in pleasing the hearers by telling them what they want to hear, rather than calling people to repentance and obedience in order to live as disciples of Jesus so that they can grow up to be like Him as sons and daughters of God. But Jesus came to bring forgiveness and healing and a new life with God for all who would turn from their own way to follow Him in living God's plan for the good of all humanity.

We are not saved for salvations sake, just to cleanse us from sin. Jesus came to die for our sins so that we could be cleansed in order to born again of God so that we might live with Him in eternal fellowship. *“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”* (John 17:3) *‘But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.’* (John 1:12-13) And it is the Fathers plan that we are transformed into the image of the Son of God so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:29

Jesus came from God and taught us that the unapproachable God of Mount Sinai was now eminently approachable and wants us to know Him as our Father, a Father who cares for every aspect of our lives. Jesus even taught us that His desire was that we become one with Him and the Father. *“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may*

be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”
John 17:20-21

God has blessed those who believe and obey His Son. Because only God can give life to the dead, only God can forgive sins, and only God can transform us into the image of His beloved Son. Only God can raise Himself from the dead. And only God can give the Holy Spirit for the purpose of changing us into His image.

Jesus calls disciples who will follow Him in all obedience and truth to be like Him. These disciples are to follow His example and do what He says in exclusion to all else, so they can become like Him. *‘Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.’*
1 John 3:2

Because we have Jesus as our divine saviour, we know He chose to die in our place, and we know He Has atoned for our sins by taking our punishment upon Himself. We know He has redeemed us by the shedding of His blood so we are freed from the power of sin and consequently

free to live unto God. We know He justifies us who are guilty before God so that we can be made righteous and set apart for life with God. We know He died the death we deserved so we can live His life, for we know we are born of His divine nature. Consequently we can know He has reconciles us with God because He gives us His life and His Spirit so God the Father, Son and Spirit can come to abide in us so we will never be alone again.

The proof of the effectiveness of Jesus as our one and only Divine Saviour and Son of God is the transformation that takes place in the lives of those who surrender all to follow Him in all obedience and truth. It is not everyone who says to Him, “*Lord, Lord*” and claim Him as their own that show the evidence of His life made alive in them; but only those who have died to self so that they may live in newness of life as His life is made alive in them. It is these who the scripture refers to when it says ‘*We will be like Him.*’

Consequently acting on what He has commanded means we will be able to do what He said we should do because we love Him. The

demonstration of real faith and love is seen when we are putting our belief and our commitment to Him into action. Therefore disciples need to be observant concerning the teaching of our Master, and this means what He taught will become the basis for our life as we put on His life so that that the power of God works in us so we will be like Him one glorious day.

Obedience is the way Jesus lives in us

Jesus makes it possible for us to learn to be like Him by coming to live in us. Discipleship is about intimate relationship with Jesus and the Father. *“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

John 17:3

This sort of knowing requires real intimacy with God. We cannot create this intimacy with God and His Son without surrender and obedience; thank God we can make ourselves available by doing what He asks of us. If we love Him we will keep His commandments, and then He will come to live in us. *“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him*

and will disclose Myself to him.” “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.’ John 14:21, 23-24

Therefore in order to abide in His love we need to surrender and obey all He has taught us. We need to die to self in order to live for God. The disciples testimony is, *‘I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.’* (Gal 2:20) *‘And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.’*

Acts 5:32

His presence gives us the confidence to say, *‘For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in*

Christ Jesus our Lord.’ (Rom 8:38-39) ‘The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.’

1 John 3:23-24

Jesus puts a high price on being like Him

Becoming a disciple of Jesus means we must lose the life we had in the world to take up a new life in the light of the Kingdom of God. It is not possible to receive Christ and live in His Kingdom if we want to retain our life and live in the world. For he who would save his life will lose it. (Matt 16:25) We cannot have two masters. (Matt 6:24) We cannot have one foot in the Kingdom of God and one in the world so that we are divided in our hearts. What fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Cor 6:14) What can the flesh add to the Spirit? “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.” John 6:63

There can be no sense of becoming a Christian without counting all things as loss that we may gain Christ. Therefore the cost of the cross is laying down our lives and all we value in the world of men, so we can take up all that is of

value in the Kingdom of God. Becoming disciples means our compelling love for Him means we will put Him and His work before all things that held our allegiance before our new birth. Counting the cost of the cross means some hard choices need to be made, because there are many stumbling blocks in the world to hold us back.

“For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”

Matt 10:35-40

So there must be a high cost in becoming a disciple because the treasure to be gained is beyond measure and worth everything that exists in the created order, (Matt 13:44) for the goal of the disciple is Christ Himself made alive in us who is the gift of love from our Father. The high cost of discipleship indicates the value the Lord places on

the life He has called us to live, because this life He gives to us is His life lived out through us so that we will be like Him. We need to be like Him.

Therefore as disciples of Jesus who are born of God by the Spirit to obey Him in all we do, we will be like Him. When Jesus came preaching the Kingdom of God, He called on all those who would seek life in this Kingdom to follow Him as His disciples; therefore we can conclude that all those who follow Jesus Christ are intended to be His disciples who will walk as He walk and obey His commandments as He obeyed the Father's commandment.

These disciples who followed Jesus left everything at the request of their Master to follow Him. *“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”* (Matt 16:24) *“Then Peter said to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?” And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the*

twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life."

Matt 19:27-29

They had left their former life to be transformed by the Master into legitimate examples of His life, so that if someone knew the Master they would be able to easily identify His disciples who are made in His image.

The disciple of Jesus always looks to the Master as the best example of how to live in the Kingdom of God and become like Him. As a consequence, the disciples would listen intently to what His Master said and taught so they could do as He said because they loved Him and wanted to obey Him.

In this way the disciples has no other interest concerning how to live that could distract them or divide their time and commitment to becoming just like the Master Jesus Christ.

We need to grow in holiness to be like Him

Since we are to be like Him, we had better pay attention to growing in holiness. While God has

given us everything we need for life and godliness, (2 Pet 1:3) we need to grow in living out that holiness. Earlier Peter wrote to the Church, *"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behaviour; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"*

1 Peter 1:13-16

When Peter repeats the Lord's words from Leviticus, he is talking only to believers; and as believers we need to be "set apart" from the world unto the Lord because we are to be different since God has made the difference in us. We need to be living by God's standards, not the world's. God is calling us to be different from the world. Peter earlier describes believers as *"a holy nation."* (1 Pet 2:9) And since all the magnificent promises of God have been fulfilled in us, we have been separated from the world; we now need to live out that reality in our day-to-day lives.

Holiness only results from a right relationship with God by believing in Jesus Christ as Saviour so we do all He asks of us. He has given us a new life so He can come to live in us, and He wants us to intentionally live in Him. If we are true believers, then we recognize that our position in Christ automatically sets us apart from the world.

1 Peter 2:9

After all, we have a relationship with the living God! Since God has done all we need to be holy children, we must live a set-apart life on a daily basis, not trying to "blend in" with the world, but instead living according to God's Word of God as we study the Bible and grow in it, so that one day we will be like Him.

'Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.'

1 John 3:2-3

'To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.'

2 Pet 1:1-4 ESV