

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST.

TOPIC: I'M CREATED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST.

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18; EPHESIANS 1:5

Introduction

When we become Christians, we enter into a relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit that will cause us to grow. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to become more like Jesus and to become more holy. It is this spiritual growth that becomes a birthmark of our faith!

1. You were created to become like Christ. Genesis 1:26, Ephesians 4:24

From the very beginning, God's plan has been to make you like his son, Jesus. This is your destiny and the true purpose of your life. God announced this intention at Creation: 'Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image and likeness.'

Like God, we are spiritual beings—our spirits are immortal and will outlast our earthly bodies; we are intellectual – we can think, reason and solve problems; like God, we are relational – we can give and receive real love; and we have a moral consciousness – we can discern right from wrong, which makes us accountable to God.

2. God's Spirit Working In You – Colossians 1:27, John 14:26

It is the Holy Spirit's job to produce Christ like character in you. This process of changing us to be more like Jesus is called sanctification. You cannot reproduce the character of Jesus on your own strength. New Year resolutions, will power, and best intentions are not enough. Only the Holy Spirit has the power to make the changes God wants to make in our lives.

3. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work – Philippians 2:13

Through-out the Bible we see an important truth illustrated over and over. The Holy Spirit releases His power the moment you take a step of faith.

4. God uses His Word, people, and circumstances to mould us – 2

Timothy 3:16-17. All three are indispensable for character development.

God's Word provides the truth we need to grow, God's people provide the support we need to grow, and the circumstances provides the environment we need to practice Christlikeness.

If you study and apply God's word, connect regularly with other believers, and learn to trust God in difficult circumstances, I guarantee you will become more like Jesus.

5. Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process of growth – Ephesians 4:13-16

Spiritual maturity is neither instant nor automatic; it is gradual, progressive development that will take the rest of your life. You are a work in progress.

God is far more interested in what you are than in what you do. God is far more interested in building your character than He is in anything else. We worry when God seems silent on specific issues such as "What career should I choose?" The truth is, there are many different careers that could be in God's will for your life. What God cares about most is that whatever you do, you do in a Christ like manner.

Q: In what area of my life do I need to ask for the Holy Spirit's power to be like Christ today?

Conclusion

The only way to fulfil God's overall purpose for one's life is to become like Jesus Christ, which is only possible by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit working in and through the believers. From a practical standpoint, this lifelong process called sanctification includes consumption of Bible doctrine, support from other believers and facing life's circumstances daily.

The process is not easy, but then Christianity in this world was not meant to be easy for adherents. Yet it develops one's Christian's life, with far reaching eternal results.

Prayer

Father help me to know you better – through worship, praise, and thanksgiving as well as through ministry, service and sacrifice..