

BECOME LIKE JESUS

2 Cor 3:12-18



SYNOPSIS

Practicing the Way involves 1) being with Jesus, 2) becoming like Jesus, and 3) doing what Jesus did.

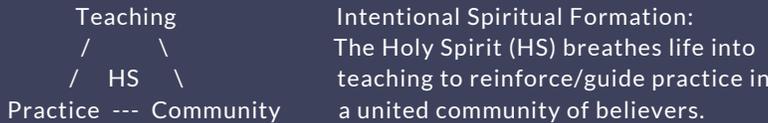
Become Like Jesus: Be formed in your inner being to become a person of love in God. The end goal is to take on the inner life of Jesus himself so that the teachings of Jesus become second nature.

- The NT calls this "being transformed into the image of Christ."

Do we want to become like Jesus?

Jesus was kind, powerful, and wise, but he was also homeless, a wanted "criminal", and a victim of betrayal and torture. Despite everything he went through, he remained a man of peace/shalom.

Prior models combining doctrine, intellect, emotions, will power, and even encounters with God will not achieve transformation. Only intentional spiritual formation will (see diagram below).



Jesus's invitation was to follow him, not only subscribe to his teachings but to practice them. The invitation to us is the same: follow in his footsteps and sit at his feet so closely that we become powdered by the dust of his feet. As we contemplate and imitate, we are transformed into his image. (2 Cor 3:18)



OUTLINE

1 SEEK JESUS AS A RABBI TO FOLLOW...

...not just as a Savior to accept. A conversion-centric gospel emphasizes gaining converts and securing your ticket to heaven. A discipleship-centered gospel asks: If you knew you were going to live forever, what kind of person do you want to become? Do we realize that we follow a rabbi who seeks to train us to practice his way of life?

2 GRACE-FILLED COMMUNITIES...

...go beyond chemistry. Most rabbis chose the "valedictorians". Jesus invited the uneducated, the traitors, and the terrorists to follow him. We tend to establish friendships based on "you too?" moments. Jesus' prototype community was filled with differences and grace.

3 TRAIN WITH INTENTIONAL PRACTICES...

...instead of thoughtless habits. Train yourselves to be godly to reap benefits both in this life and the life to come. (1 Tim 4:7b-8) The "life to come" could be the afterlife or your next life season. E.g. Many enter their "life to come" as first-time parents with little to no training under Jesus, and it shows. Butterfly theology: The DNA of a butterfly is present in a caterpillar. The caterpillar has all the genetic material it needs (a la 2 Pet 1:3), but intention is required for transformation.



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? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

How are you doing in your practices of being with Jesus? (It's a new week but last week's message still applies.)

2

What is one way you wish you were more like Jesus? How could you practice?

3

What would it look like for you to fill moments of your life with a conscious awareness of the presence of a loving God?

4

Read 1 Cor 9:25-27. Practice being with Jesus, and invite the Holy Spirit to highlight a part of this passage for your current life.

5

Extrapolating from what you observe today, invite the Holy Spirit to help you imagine the "butterfly" version of who he created you to be (in Christ-likeness). How could you practice becoming this person?



BIG IDEA

Become like Jesus. Respond to his invitation of "follow me" with intention. Observe and imitate our rabbi.

It is unrealistic to expect yourself to respond peacefully/wisely/powerfully/lovingly/rightly in intense situations and conflicts if you haven't been practicing.