

DESTINED TO BE LIKE JESUS CHRIST

Romans 8:28-31

Introduction: Everybody at one time or other has imitated somebody he/she has admired. It may have been a hair style, a type of dress style, a voice mannerism, a way of public appearance, style of walk, body movements, countless ways people imitate others. Artists have tried to copy a painting of someone they admire, even preachers imitate other preachers. Today there are copy write laws that protect people from having things about themselves copied by others for the purpose of making profit.

To imitate others does not make a person whomever they are imitating. Nobody can successfully imitate another and have the same results. However the Christian is told by the Heavenly Father to copy, to imitate, to be like God's Son, Jesus Christ and is indwelt with God's Holy Spirit to help live like God's Son.

I. IN WHAT WAYS ARE CHRISTIANS TO BE LIKE JESUS?

1. It is thought by many that it is up to each person to be like Jesus in his/her own way.
 - Some think that by being called a "Christian" is to be like Jesus.
 - Others claim that they are Christians therefore they are in the image of Jesus.
 - Some statues are so realistic that they seem to be alive, yet they are of course dead, made of stone and thus it is the same with some so called "Christians."
 - Some think that asking "WWJD?" (What would Jesus do?) is being like Jesus.
 - People who act in movies and plays, are imitating the roles of other people but they are NOT actually those people.
 - A person can dress in the style of clothing Jesus wore in His day and go out on the streets where he/she lives and will be laughed at for that person is not being like Jesus as God intended. God is talking about an INNER likeness of Jesus.

2. What inner part of Jesus are Christians to be like?
 - Jesus' character. He was humble, meek, lowly, a servant of servant attitude, not idle, was devoted to God, the Father, did good everywhere He went.
 - If one is to be like Jesus, he/she must then be humble, put aside self, conceit, pride and spend his/her life for Jesus.
 - One's love must not be limited but be true, honest, not just of words, but of works, and willing to sacrifice for others.
 - Jesus' devotion and prayerfulness. Jesus never stopped praying and was always going to God the Father for comfort and reassurance.
 - One can never be like Jesus until he/she knows the power of kneeling with tears and pleadings to the Heavenly Father.

3. Then there is a cross like Jesus had.
 - Whenever one thinks of Jesus, he/she thinks of the cross on which Jesus was despised, rejected, mocked and upon which He died.
 - The Christian, also, must carry a similar cross whereby he/she will be despised, rejected by friends and cast outside the walls of family and the world.
 - Many Christians want to avoid this part about being like Jesus, but still want to be called a Christian.

- If a Christian bears his/her "cross" as Jesus did, then there will be a "crown of thorns," the pain and sound of nails being driven into his/her body, the voices of jeers of the laughing world.
- If the "race is to be won, then one has to be in the race." One must become like the inner Jesus during his/her life here if one is to become like Jesus in the eternal life.

II. WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO BECOME LIKE JESUS?

1. Being like Jesus was what Adam lost in the garden of Eden.
 - At one time Adam was like God and walked and talked with Him but because of sin, lost that life and privilege.
 - God shall restore that lost image when the Christian becomes like Jesus.
2. God has declared that it is going to happen to those who believe in Jesus.
 - If it is God's ultimate plan for believers to be like Jesus, then what ought Christians to be doing?
3. The Holy Spirit of God will bring the Christian to be like Jesus.
 - A person believes in Jesus and is "reborn" into God's family, destined to grow and become like Jesus and each day should bring growth more like Jesus with the Holy Spirit guiding.
4. True believers in Jesus want to be as much like Jesus as possible.
 - If there is but one prayer that a true believer would be allowed to pray, it would to be more like Jesus.
5. The highest honor a person can have is to be like Jesus.
 - The angels in heaven can never be like Jesus and if possible the angels would trade places with the Christian. Angels can see Jesus and bow to Jesus, but Christians shall be like Jesus.

III. HOW CAN BEING LIKE JESUS POSSIBLE HAPPEN?

1. Human efforts to be like Jesus have and will always fail, no matter how one dresses, speaks, acts, attends services, sings, preaches, even becoming a missionary. All fail to be like Jesus.
 - So how can a person be like Jesus?
 - It is not by any human effort but only by the work of God.
2. Consider that God doesn't have much to work with, a sinful, weak human body made from the dust of the earth yet God says the believer shall have a new body.
3. Consider the world in which we live, no place without sin and unbelievers, yet God has prepared another place for those who will be like Jesus in their new bodies.
4. The believer will be exactly like Jesus, perfect in every respect. How can that possibly happen?
 - No spot, no blemish, yet God has decreed it and it shall be.
5. God is still working on each/every believer to make him/her to be more like Jesus, it is God's work

CONCLUSION:

1. In eternity each person will either bear the image of Jesus or that of Satan.
2. Here on this earth during one's lifetime, he/she will either grow to be more like Jesus or more like Satan, one or the other.
3. Faith in Jesus Christ or unbelief in Jesus Christ determines one's eternal destiny.
4. ***"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."***
5. God has declared that every believer in Jesus shall one day be exactly like Jesus and the Holy Spirit indwells each believer to help him/her become more like Jesus every day.
- How is it going with you? How much like Jesus are you today?