

The Four Stages of Christianity 6

So the question we are all to ask ourselves is, “What is God making us or building us into as a people group called the church?”

The answer to this question lies in Romans 8:28-30;

Romans 8:28-30 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 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; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

Genesis 5:3 teaches us that we have all been made into the image of Adam, which is a fallen image, and an image that needs to die and no longer exist. It is an image that is demonic in nature, born of the flesh, and not of Spirit. We are born of the earth, the temporal and so God wants to give us a brand new created life in Him and build us of the heavenly - the eternal.

Romans 8:28-30 is full of divine revelation for us to feed on and drink in, and be made and conformed into the image of His Son. Let's have a look at the divine utterances of the eternal Word of God and see what He is declaring.

It starts by declaring a conditional reality. The condition on God causes all things to work together for good to those who 1. Love God and 2. Are called according to His eternal purpose.

Q. What does it mean to truly love God and be called to His eternal purpose?

The second aspect of this powerful utterance of God's spiritual Word is, “For those whom He foreknew”.

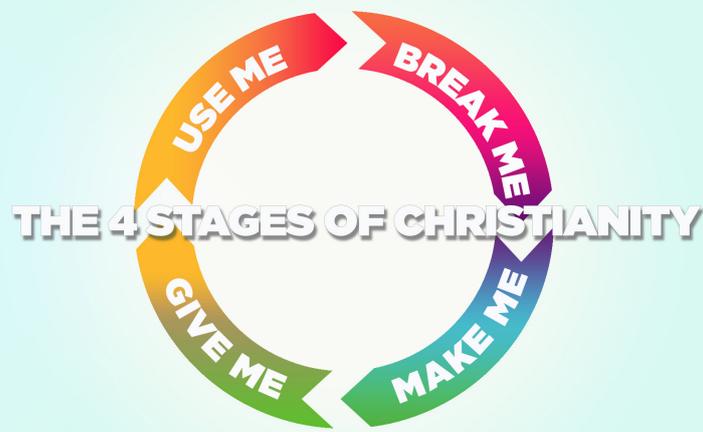
Q. What does being foreknown mean for us as His children?

The third part of this divine prophetic utterance are these words. “He predestined us to become conformed into the image of His Son.”

This is the predestined purpose for all of us. This purpose is not just for one individual person but for the entire body of Christ. This is everyone's purpose in Christ. The second thing to note about this purpose is that it is not functional, but it is centred on us having fellowship with Him. It is founded on us being spiritually one with the Father, Son and Spirit.

Q. Why is it essential we grasp the fact that this divine purpose is for all of us and that it isn't a functional purpose?

The Father desires to conform us into the image of His Son. This is the true making or building stage. It is not about God conforming to our image or us conforming into the image we think He wants, but truly surrendering and allowing God to conform us into the image He desires.



He desires to conform us into the image of His Son, and this conforming work starts in the deep recesses of the human spirit and soul, where He removes us from being the centrepiece of our lives through His resurrected power and establishes Himself as the Lord in our lives.

John 1:4 *In Him was life, and the life was the **Light of men.***

Galatians 2:20 *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.*

Colossians 1: 25-27 *Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.***

This is what being conformed into His image is all about, so how does this conforming work happen? All this conforming work happens through the power of the Spirit and Faith in the living Truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 *But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Q. What is, "Sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth?"

We can see from the passage in Romans that this is the calling for the church of Jesus Christ. It's not some individual work that God has for you and you alone, but for His entire body and it is 1 calling/purpose.

Q. Why is it fundamentally essential every follower enters into His calling/purpose for His church?

Q. What is the 1 thing you sense He has shown you over the last 6 weeks in relation to your own relationship with Him and is there anything He is asking you to do in relation to this?