



IDENTITY

SONSHIP

IDENTITY - PART 4 - SONSHIP

1 John 4:17 *because as He is, so also are we in this world.*

Jesus is the physical manifestation for every son of God to become in this world. He is the prototype or the example which we are all to look to and lay hold of with all we have and are in Him. We can not make ourselves into His image and we can not copy Him or be a copy of Him. Being transformed into His image is a divine work of GRACE, but what we are fully capable of doing, is positioning and posturing ourselves through tears, supplications and piety to the One who can transform us through His power.

As sons we are to become Christlike on the inside as well as the outside. The focus on becoming Christlike never starts by anything external, but everything internal. All the external or the physical expression is, is a reflection of our internal. Our true inner state will come forth from us.

Unfortunately, for many in God's body this is a lost reality, because we are taught the primary focus of God are external works, rather than the transformation of our inner being, to which all our works will flow from, in power.

Jesus is the Eternal Life and He was sent by the Father that we would know Eternal Life and have Him, Eternal Life, being formed within us. Just as He was Eternal life in this world, we too are called to live from an eternal life as God's sons, because Christ who is Eternal life lives and is being formed within us.

Galatians 4:19 *My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.*

This gives light and life to what Paul is saying in Romans 8:29.

Romans 8:29 *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.*

Conformed into the image of His Son. What an incredible promise that the Father gives to all those who He has predestined in the Son. The Scripture is very clear here. God knew us before we knew ourselves. He has a foreknowledge of who we are in Him and who we have been called and chosen to be and become in Him.

A major problem for many of God's followers, is that we are taught that we are to learn to apply, rather than learn to be and become. When man teaches man, from man's wisdom, it's all about the application of His Word first, as opposed to becoming Christlike first. I am not saying sons will not live out truth and be the manifold demonstration of Him, Wisdom, but a son who isn't being conformed into His image, is always going to try to apply what he is learning from his own strength or power, and that just ends up in frustration, confusion, disillusionment and ultimately burn out.

Because we can not see any form of God and His ways are concealed from us, we have no reference for who He is and what it is to be conformed into His image as His son, and God warns us of this very reality.

Deuteronomy 4:15-20 *"So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day the Lord spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire, so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water below the earth. And beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven and*



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see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, those which the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt, to be a people for His own possession, as today.

When we create God in our own image because we lack revelation, we create our version or image of what it is to be His Son. This image has us living as slaves as we have previously stated, rather than living as sons, heirs of God, heirs of the promise. Our very lives are the demonstration of our sonship or lack of it.

Q. How is one conformed into His image then if one can not see the Lord or what it is to be His Son?

One must be able to hear and understand the living Word of God when it is spoken.

Deuteronomy 4:12 Then the Lord spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form—only a voice.

One can not see a voice, but one must be able to hear a voice and then hear what the voice is saying. When we say "hear", we mean spiritual hearing and spiritual understanding through revelation, not just listening to the audible words and trying to understand them through human intelligence.

As the Scripture says we are predestined to be conformed into His image, but this doesn't mean it is predetermined. Our choices and our willingness to lose our lives, yield everything of who we think we are and what we know to His sovereignty as Lord, will all predetermine whether we live the eternal life we are called to live as a son of God, and live as Christ did in this world.

QUESTIONS

1. What are our thoughts around this Scripture?

1 John 4:17 because as He is, so also are we in this world.

2. Why does God warn us about not making Him in our image and what are the consequences to us and our identity in Him if we do?
3. How does the Father conform us into the image of Jesus, so as He was we are in our time on earth?
4. Even though we are predestined to be conformed into His image, our choices predetermine whether we will become this person. Why is this the case?
5. Where would you say you are honestly at in this process of being conformed into His image?