

The Process of Being Changed into the Likeness of Christ

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For whom He did foreknow, He also predestined **to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29.

When we are baptized in water, we are **baptized into Christ and put on Christ**.

Galatians 3:27, Romans 6:3, Acts 2:38, 8:16, 10:48, 19:5.

(When I baptize new believers, I baptize them into the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ; into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This includes Matthew 28:19 as well as the above Scriptures.

John 14:6, says, “We come to the Father through the Son.”

The Son is the One who baptizes us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Matthew 3:11.)

If any person be in Christ, they are a new creation, old things are passed away; **all things are become new**. 2Corinthians 5:17.

“It is no longer I who live, **but Christ who lives in me**.” Galatians 2:20.

“**Christ in us** is the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27. (I think this means the hope of being like Him.)

Christ is living in us and we are living in Him, by faith in His promises. We have been given exceeding great and precious promises: that by these we might be **partakers of His divine nature**. 2Peter 1:4.

Do not lie to one another, seeing you have put off the old man with his deeds; **and have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him who that created him**. Colossians 3:9,10.

This “new man” is created in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24.

“Holiness is the life of God in us”, expressed through us. John Wesley.

But we all, with an unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image**, from glory to glory, **even as by the Spirit of the Lord**. 2Corinthians 3:18.

(The mirror of God’s Word. James 1:21 to 24.)

When we consider Jesus, during His ministry time on the earth, we are impressed with His:

LOVE, mercy, kindness, gentleness, patience, goodness, healing of the sick, preaching the Gospel, and serving others in love,

AUTHORITY and POWER, to raise the dead, cast out demons, open blind eyes, cleanse the lepers, still the storm, refute the religious leaders when they were wrong, and boldly preach the truth,

WISDOM, understanding, knowledge, truth, revelation, and insight,

RIGHTEOUSNESS, justice, holiness, purity and sinless life.

The very readable book, “What the Bible is all About”, by Henrietta Mears, explains that each of the four Gospels emphasise one of these aspects of Jesus’ life on earth.

In **MARK**, Jesus is primarily focused on as **the Servant of others**.

Mark is a book of action in which **Jesus ministers in love to needy humanity**.

MATTHEW focuses on **Jesus as the King**, and His preaching on **the Kingdom of Heaven**.

Here there is an emphasis on Jesus’ **authority and power**.

The Gospel of **LUKE** emphasises **Jesus’s humanity and His understanding care of the individual in need**.

This Gospel emphasises **Jesus’ wisdom, understanding, knowledge and truth**.

JOHN’S Gospel emphasises **Jesus’s Person as the Son of God, His divinity, His righteousness, justice, and holiness**.

The four Living Creatures around the Throne of God, who lead the worship of God and the Lamb in heaven, who have the face of the **OX**, the face of the **LION**, the face of the **MAN**, and the face of the **EAGLE**, correspond to the Gospels, **Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John** respectively. Revelation 4:7, 5.

These four attributes of Jesus are called **the “related attributes” of Christ**, and we are being changed to be like Him in these ways.

In the Scriptures, you will notice that these four attributes are mentioned, and applied to our lives in Christ.

For example in 2Timothy 1:7, “We are given the Spirit of **POWER, LOVE and a SOUND MIND.**”

Also in 1Corinthians 1:30, 1:24, Psalm 89:14, Micah 6:8, are these four attributes mentioned.

Jesus Christ is also the Creator, Sustainer of all things, Redeemer, Saviour, Almighty God, and Judge of all. He is the Lamb of God, the Justifier, Sanctifier, Propitiator, and the all-powerful One.

He has a Name above every name, and is the Eternal, Unchanging, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

These are called the **unrelated attributes of God and we are not being changed into these.**

In 1John 4:17 it says, **“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world.”**

This Scripture confirms that **God is working in us, to change us into the image of Jesus Christ; into His likeness.**

“Because as He is, so are we in this world.” 1John 4:17.

“Because as He is, so are we in this world,” also applies to the maturing of our authority and power, our wisdom, understanding, knowledge and truth, and to our righteousness, justice, and holiness.

God is changing us into the likeness of Jesus Christ and perfecting in us His LOVE, His AUTHORITY and POWER, His WISDOM, and His RIGHTEOUSNESS so that the Person of Jesus Christ may be seen in us, and through us, in all we say and do.

Some have commented that Mark was written for the **Romans**, Matthew for the **Jews**, Luke for the **Greeks** and John for the **Church**.

“And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the Cross.

And the writing was, **JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

And it was written in **Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.**”

John 19:19,20.