

“Being Changed to Live Like Jesus”

Why Do I Have to Change?

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Steve Freeburne / June 20, 2004

I. Why Do I have to Change?

Since the Fall of man in the Garden of Eden, man has attempted to blame someone or something for his trouble. Adam attempted to shift responsibility to Eve, and Eve pointed an accusing finger at the serpent. God’s Word is clear, however, that our real problems are not the result of pressure from someone or something outside ourselves. We do not sin because of financial, social, medical or circumstantial pressures. We sin because each of us has a sinful heart. **Changed into His Image**, Jim Berg page 3

Justified men always long to be sanctified. When God forgives our sins we are all the more fearful of sinning again. Mercy, which pardons transgression, sets us longing for grace which prevents transgression. **The Treasury of David**, Charles Spurgeon, volume III page 190 on Psalms 119:26.

Colossians 1:9-12a NIV: ... we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way; bearing fruit in knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father

WHY change is imperative

We are bought with a price. *I Corinthians 6:19-20*

Our new nature demands it. *Romans 6:6*

The days are evil. *Ephesians 6:11-13*

The depth of our Christian experience is built on it

Ephesians 4: 13, 15-16 NIV: ... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.... Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

II. In order to understand biblical change we must explore the following three aspects: WHO has to change? WHAT is it that must change? HOW does biblical change really happen?

WHO has to change?

Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV: You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desire; to be made new in the attitude of your mind; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

First admit, “I am the problem,” Let’s accept once and for all that our problems are not due to other people, our parents, or our past. Let’s take total responsibility for who we are going to become and bring our desires before God. When we do that, we have taken the first step in change. Admit like Paul did in Romans 7:24 “O wretched man that I am.” **I Really Want to Change... So, help me God**, James MacDonald, pages 38-39

WHAT is it that must change?

Our hearts. *Mark 7:20-23*

Our desires. *James 4:1*

Our motives. *James 4:2-3*

Our mind. *Romans 12:2*

Our actions. *Romans 6:22*

Mark 12:30: NIV: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength

Psalms 37:4: NIV: Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. **Psalms 119: 18, 25, 27, 29, 35, 36,** Open my eyes, quicken me, make me understand, strengthen me, keep me, teach me, direct me, turn my heart. **Psalms 119: 73 NIV:** Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.

We need a new creation, and who can grant us that but the Creator himself? He who made us to live must make us to learn; he who gave us power to stand must give us grace to understand. **The Treasury of David**, Charles Spurgeon, volume III page 289 on Psalms 119:73

HOW does biblical change really happen?

The change from the self-centered ways of our sinful heart to the self-sacrificing ways of our Lord will require divine assistance. This kind of change is not a do-it-yourself project. As believers we can no more please and serve God effectively in our own strength than we can plow a large field of solid ground. Just as the farmer needs a tractor to enable him to carry out his work, we to need assistance. The Holy Spirit is the divine power behind everything the believer does that will count for God. He is the Agent who shows us our need of Christ and imparts Christ's life to us at salvation. He then begins the work of changing our lives to become like Christ through sanctification, and He empowers us for service to Christ. *Changed into His Image*, Jim Berg pages 6-7

We are changed by the Holy Spirit as we cooperate with His leading. *Eph 5:18*
The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and changes us to become like the Son of God.

Put off the old self; *Ephesians 4:23a*

Let God change the way you think; *Romans 12:2 NLT*

Put on the new self; *Ephesians 4:23c*

III. P A R: A Tool to use for Biblical Change

Biblical Pinciples + Biblical Actions produce Biblical Results, with Christ-like Character through the Grace of God

Try Psalms 119:42-45 NIV as an example: ...then I will answer the one who taunts me, for I trust in your word. Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws. I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.

Biblical Pinciple:

As believers we answer the taunting of our great adversary the devil by trusting in His Word, by putting our hope in His Word, by obeying His Word.

Biblical Action:

Ask yourself specific questions about changes in your life you need to make in order to be obedient to the biblical principle.

Is it difficult for you to trust God? What things would the Lord have you give up control of? List these specifically. _____

The believer's hope is a well-founded expectation of future good based on the promises of God.

Hebrews 11: 1 NIV: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

II Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV: Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary trouble are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Specifically list what you are hoping for? What eternal things from God's Word motivates your daily lifestyle for good? _____

Can we hope in the Word of God if we know it only sparingly?

How well do you know the Word of God? On a scale of 1-10 my knowledge of God's Word would be at _____. When do you plan to read and study it? _____. What method do you use to memorize scripture? _____.

Colossians 3:1-4 NIV: Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things for you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in god. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Biblical Result:

As we trust, hope and obey the Word of God, the Lord through His grace gives us freedom.

John 8:36 NIV: So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

II Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

I Timothy 4:15-16 NIV: Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

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