

3-18-2024

Made to Become

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“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit,” *2 Corinthians 3:18, ESV*.

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Do you ever struggle with being a follower of Jesus? Feeling like you’re not enough, not doing enough of the right thing, doing too much of the wrong things? You’re not alone. The apostle Paul said: “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”^[1] Perhaps the greatest paradox of living as children of God who bear His image is living in the tension of the “in between.” Theologian Geerhardus Vos famously described how we live in the “already” but “not yet”.

“Just as the New Testament describes Christ’s kingdom as something that is both present today but not fully consummated, we are created in God’s image, we share His nature, but we have not fully realized it yet. We have not embodied all that we were made to be. We are works in progress.”^[2]

Instead of focusing on our failure, our inability, our insecurity, our inadequacy though, Jesus invites us to recognize how *He* is actively pursuing our transformation. Peter confirms this when he writes:

[God’s] divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.^[3]

With an open heart and humble willingness, your transformation is a sure thing because God promises it will happen. It is happening. This is *His* work to do within you through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. What’s your role to play? Cooperate. Co-labor. Lean in. Trust. Obey. Surrender. Follow the “Shepherd of your soul.”^[4]

This week, as you make The Main Thing, the main thing in your life, may you worship the God who is faithful to meet you where you are and transform you into who He intends for you to become.

Reflection

1. Read Romans 8:18-21 – How do you resonate with this passage?
2. Read Romans 8:29-30 – What does this passage mean to you personally?
3. Read Philippians 1:6 – Knowing this, what is your response to God today?

News and Resources

- Join us this week for Vespers at 7:30pm & 8:30pm in the University Church!
- Find a meaningful sense of belonging by joining a student or faculty/staff LifeGroup today: [click here](#).
- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.