

BIGGERsteps

Part Two: *Christ-like*

February 12, 2023

This month we're taking bigger steps to reach spiritual maturity more quickly. Last week, I said the measure for spiritual maturity is how much you resemble Jesus! Spiritually mature people think, speak, and act like Christ. I concluded my message last Sunday by giving you five reasons every Christian should grow to spiritual maturity. This morning, I want to teach you how a Christian becomes like Christ.

How does a Christian become like Christ?

1st – You must choose to increase your knowledge of Christ.

To become like Jesus, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. *“You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18, NLT). The verb *grow* in verse 18 means “to be continually growing.” The process of spiritual growth begins at salvation (John 17:3) and continues as we learn more and more about Jesus (Eph. 4:15; Phil. 3:10; 1 Peter 2:2).

Brain Blower: *The quicker you learn about Jesus - the quicker you will become like Jesus!*

How do you grow in knowledge of Jesus?

- **You must study the Bible to learn about Jesus and His teachings.**

The Old Testament has some information about Christ in it, but if you really want to learn about Jesus, you must study the four Gospels at the beginning of the New Testament. Then, you must study the rest of the New Testament. The writers of the NT were inspired by the Holy Spirit to teach us about Jesus and His will for our lives (2 Peter 1:20-21).

In Colossians 1:15-20, Paul gives us seven characteristics about Christ that makes Him supreme over all creation.

1. Paul tells us Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. Vs. 15

Christ is supreme, or superior over creation because He is the perfect resemblance and representation of God (John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17; Phil. 2:6-7).

2. Paul tells us Jesus existed before anything, and He is sovereign over everything. Vs. 15

3. Paul says Jesus is the creator of the universe. Vs. 16-17

Everything was created by Jesus and for Jesus, and everything in our universe is being held together by Jesus. Christ is not only the Creator of all things, but He is the sustainer of all things (John 1:3; Heb. 1:2).

4. Paul says Jesus is the head of the church. Vs. 18

Besides being the Lord of the universe, Jesus is also the Lord of the church (Eph. 1:22–23; 5:23). A person is baptized into the spiritual Body of Christ the moment they believe in Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

5. Paul states Jesus was the first to rise from the dead in an immortal body. Vs. 18

Jesus was the first to rise in an immortal body (1 Cor. 15:20), and as such leads a whole new order (Rev. 1:5).

6. Paul explains that Jesus is the fullness of God.

Vs. 19

The word translated fullness in verse 19 means completely. Paul is telling us that all of God's being permanently dwells in Jesus (Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3).

7. Paul tells us Jesus is the reconciler of all things.

Vs. 20

God will reconcile all things to Himself through Christ. To make peace through Christ's blood means to cause God's enemies (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21) to become His friends and family (Romans 5:1-11; Eph. 2:11-19).

Through Bible study, you learn who Jesus is, what He has done for you, what He is doing for you, and what He is going to do for you. The more you grow in knowledge of Christ, the more you will want to be like Him.

2nd - You must choose to obey Christ.

Jesus doesn't just want you to know about Him, He wants you to obey His commands. He made this clear in His Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

What do you need to do to obey Christ?

- **You must do what the Bible tells you to do!**

"So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it." (James 1:21-25, NLT)

To become like Christ, you must do what the Bible (the teachings of Christ) tells you to do. You must allow His way of living to become your way of living!

Two questions to think about this week:

How well do you know Jesus?

How well are you obeying Christ?