

IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD

Text: Romans 6:1-11

Key Word: Likeness

Key Thought: We Have Been Made in the Likeness of God

It seems like every time a child is born we quickly try to determine which features are closest to the mom or dad. We often say “*she has your eyes*” or “*does he ever have his dad’s smile.*” We never seem to say “*now does that crying ever remind me of both of you.*” We always seem to identify the good or positive areas that we are similar with.

The same is true with our likeness to God. From the beginning of time God made us in His “*image.*” A synonym for this is the word “*likeness.*”

*“So God created man in his own image, **in the image of God** created him; male and female he created them.”*

Genesis 1:27

*“and have put on the new self, **which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.**”*

Colossians 3:10

What a wonderful thought to be renewed in knowledge in the image of OUR Creator. This “*image*” has only been imparted to humans. But how are we to understand this? **There is not enough time to be exhaustive in our evaluation so we will limit our thoughts to those that were highlighted at the time of our Lord’s death, burial, resurrection which led to eternal life.**

“Being in God's image means that humans share, though imperfectly and finitely, in God's nature, that is, in His communicable attributes (life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, justice), and so have the capacity for spiritual fellowship with Him.”

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How Are We Made in the Likeness of God?

I. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS CRUCIFIXION (Romans 6:6,7)

II. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION (Romans 6:5)

III. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS ETERNAL LIFE (Romans 8-11)

I. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS CRUCIFIXION (Romans 6:6,7)

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. 6. because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”

Romans 6:6,7

First of all we must understand that our **“old self was crucified.”** The word that was used **“sustauroo”** means **“to impale in company with.”** The word **“impale”** means **“to pierce with a sharp instrument.”** This is not a pretty picture but neither was a crucifixion. The vivid meaning of this is that when we have parted with our old self we are not to renew relations just the same as we would not walk around with a corpse. Our old self was crucified when we accepted Christ’s work at the cross.

But I hope you don’t think this is some bleak moment in your life. Its been properly said that **self-denial** is not **self-rejection**. This is the moment that we truly come to realize why God created us. It is that moment of truth. The light comes on and we realize the purpose God had when He made us the way we are.

******* I came to understand a bit of this truth shortly after I was saved. We had just moved to Toronto and I heard that Kennedy Road Tabernacle was looking for a drummer. I knew “I” could do it. Can you believe it that Bruce Ballinger who was the Music Minister and had just written the song *“We Have Come into His House”* during a church revival in 1976 was auditioning “me.” So I went to prove that I could do it and failed miserably.

I was shocked. How could that be. I knew all the beats after playing in a rock band for 5 years. The only type of music I hated to play drums to was jazz. You see I hadn’t even considered whether the old Brad had died when we played our last gig just before our wedding in Apr 1975.

It took around three years before I was ready. The church in Fort McMurray never had a drummer and a number of them weren’t looking to add one to the musicians and singers. *******

(Contd.)

I. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS CRUCIFIXION (Romans 6:6,7) (Contd.)

*** It took an unsaved coworker at Syncrude to convince me to think it through and be open to change. I purchased a set in Edmonton and set them up for worship practise.

That night was so different. A new style of drumming took place the moment I played the first song. I was a lighter drummer. "I" didn't need attention. It was time to give honour and praise to God. A new Brad had been born years before but God's timing had to be sought after.

Before leaving McMurray in 1981 to attend Bible college I was asked to play the main part in an Easter play called "The Centurion." It focussed around the Roman soldier who recognized that Jesus truly was the Son God at Golgotha. I'm sure it was the first limping soldier ever used in a play like this. I've discovered the importance of not renewing my relationship with the Old Brad if I wish to be used of God. ***

Crucifixion is neither simple nor immediate. It requires pain which we often do our best to avoid. Yet the more we surrender to what God wants to change in our lives, the more we see His image shining forth out our lives.

II. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION (Romans 6:5)

Once we take on the Likeness of His Crucifixion we can then also be made in the Likeness of His Resurrection.

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Romans 6:5

I've met many people in life who get stuck in crucifying their old life. They micro monitor it. In fact, they become so good that they now are able to micro manage your life as well. They know exactly what YOU need to change - to give up - to die to. It gets nowhere.

"A rut is a coffin with its ends cut out."

The problem is that there is no life in this type of "living." **We can't be resurrected until we are removed from the cross, buried and rise again WITH CHRIST** **ile His resurrection.** No one likes looking at a decaying body. I've never met a single person who wanted to enter the field of forensics.

II. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION (Romans 6:5) (Contd.)

On the other hand I've meant a number of people who work in the field of beauty care (hairdressers, estheticians, gym owners and personal trainers. Stores like Shoppers Drug Mart pride themselves in having an abundant array of beauty care yet they don't sell a single item to anoint my body if I die.

Lets face it advertisers spend countless hours developing the most eye-catching ads because they know that we are easily distracted. Even their slogans are put to music that keeps coming back to our minds. *"You deserve a break today at McDonalds."* We want things that make us feel better - that we believe adds to our life! Thats why menus are changing rapidly even at fast food stores. I never heard of gluten free food when I grew up. Mom sued to say "a little bit of dirt will never hurt them." She was talking about swallowing it, not having it on your skin.

So I don't think I need to convince you that we are all much more focussed in life then we are on death. So why do we focus differently when it comes to Christianity? It doesn't mean we avoid talking about changes required in our lives. We just shouldn't pitch our tents and die there.

When Jesus rose from the dead I don't know of a single account where they ran and hugged him. They actually kept their distance and questioned whether it was really Him. It takes time to accept the changes in others. No one in this service ever changed completely overnight.

Theologians often refer to it as **"already - not yet."** We've been given a wonderful new life in Christ but none of us ever reach its full potential. So lets keep encouraging each other to keep going and growing in our resurrected life of Christ. In this way we will be advancing toward our ultimate reward.

"If you live in the dark a long time and the sun comes out, you do not cross into it whistling. There's an initial uprush of relief at first, then-for me, anyway- a profound dislocation. My old assumptions about how the world works are buried, yet my new ones aren't yet operational. There's been a death of sorts, but without a few days in hell, no resurrection is possible."

Mary Karr

*** The Body of B. Franklin, Printer Like the Cover of an old Book Its contents torn out, And stript of its Lettering and Guilding, Lies here, Food for Worms, But the Work shall not be wholly lost: For it will, as he believ'd, appear once more, in a new & more perfect edition, corrected and amended by the Author. ***

Source Unknown

III. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS ETERNAL LIFE (Romans 6:8-11)

“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

10. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 6:8-11

Now we go to the third point of this sermon. We began looking at the **Likeness of His Crucifixion** and then I spoke about the **Likeness of His Resurrection**. Now let's look at the **Likeness of His Eternal Life**.

Our text isn't just speaking about life but eternal life - living with Christ - alive to God in Christ. This word for "life" is "zoe."

“LIFE NT:2222) (Eng., "zoo," "zoology") is used in the NT "of life as a principle, **life in the absolute sense, life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself, and which He gave to the Incarnate Son to have in Himself, John 5:26, and which the Son manifested in the world, 1 John 1:2.** From this life man has become alienated in consequence of the Fall, Eph 4:18, and of this life men become partakers through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, John 3:15, who becomes its Author to all such as trust in Him, Acts 3:15, **and who is therefore said to be 'the life' of the believer, Col 3:4, for the life that He gives He maintains, John 6:35,63. Eternal life is the present actual possession of the believer because of his relationship with Christ, John 5:24; 1 John 3:14, and that it will one day extend its domain to the sphere of the body is assured by the Resurrection of Christ, 2 Cor 5:4; 2 Tim 1:10.**”

[Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words](#)
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This is incredible life. This word is used over 140 times in the New Testament. That tells us that this truth is meant to pass on to others.

III. IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS ETERNAL LIFE (Romans 6:8-11) (Contd.)

NT:2222

“universally, life, i. e. **the state of one who is possessed of vitality** or is animate: 1 Peter 3:10

2. used emphatically,

a. **of the absolute fullness of life**, both essential and ethical, **which belongs to God**, and through him both to the hypostatic logos and to Christ in whom the logos put on human nature:

b. **life real and genuine,”**

Thayer's Greek Lexicon
Electronic Database.

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Jesus said,

“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”

John 11:25-26 KJV

There have been a number of movies recently about heaven. Some of you have seen “*Heaven is for Real*” (April 16/2014); “*90 Minutes in Heaven*” (Sept 11/15); “*Miracles from Heaven*” (March 16/2016). These movies try to depict some amazing stories of what happens to people when God’s life is manifested in them to a level that we seldom hear about.

“Eternal life is not primarily duration but quality of life, “life to the limit.”

John Eldredge

The apostle Paul sums up the amazing truths that Jesus did for all of us.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

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Date: March 27/16 (Resurrection Sunday)

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Glorious Day - G

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