

Sharing His Likeness

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, That He might be the firstborn among many brethren." ~ Romans 8:29

When we grow up physically we take on the characteristics of our parents. The Father wants us to take on the likeness of His family. This is His aim in our lives. In fact, we have been *predestined* to this very end!

The KEY ISSUE in spiritual growth is becoming more like the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not accomplished through the *imitation* of His life, but through the *insemination* of His life!

This is seen as the ultimate purpose of the separation of Paul, our Apostle:

*"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, **to reveal his Son in me** ..." (Galatians 1:15-16).*

The Father is *effectually* working this process even now in our lives. This is accomplished by *beholding* Him.

*"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (II Corinthians 3:18).*

As we continue to behold *Him*, we are changed into *His* image. This is accomplished in the details of life. The Father is at work to manifest *When we grow up physically we take on the characteristics of our parents. The Father wants us to take on the likeness of His family. This is His aim in our lives. In fact, we have been predestined to this very end!*

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As we continue to behold *Him*, we are changed into *His* image. This is accomplished in the details of life. The Father is at work to manifest the life of our Lord Jesus Christ in our body – in our mortal flesh – and He accomplishes this in the most difficult circumstances that life may throw at us.

*“Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body**. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh**”* (II Corinthians 4:10-11).

This divine process He *Himself* will carry out to its completion.

*“Being confident of this very thing, that **He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ**”* (Philippians 1:6).

*“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly**”* (I Corinthians 15:49).

John, the Apostle to Israel, echoed this wonderful confidence as well:

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, **we shall be like Him**; for we shall see Him as He is”* (I John 3:2).

Delight in this glorious hope!

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*“**We shall ... bear the image of the heavenly**”* (I Corinthians 15:49).

*“**We shall be like Him**”* (I John 3:2).

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