

WEEK 3 - TRANSFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

OVERVIEW

We've covered what it means to be made in the image of God and how that image can be disfigured through sin and restored through Christ. Now we must ask the next logical question. How exactly do we go *about* this work of restoration? In this sermon we will follow the thread of a core New Testament idea: that of us *being conformed* into the image of Christ. We'll explore what it means to surrender our lives to Jesus and to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us day by day into people who look, act, and even *think* like Christ, who is himself the perfect image of God. By practicing such surrender and trust, we can recover our original vocation as God's loving, creative representatives in this world.

All of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.
2 Corinthians 3:18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What have you learned about how humans are made in the image of God?
2. Read John 1:18 and Hebrews 1:3. In what ways does Christ show us who God is?
3. How did we fall short of the glory of God? (See Romans 3:23 NRSV.)
4. Barry said that "we can return to exactly who God created us to be."
    a. Who did God create us to be?
    b. How can we return to that? (See also Romans 8:29 NRSV.)
5. How do we go about restoring the image of God that was disfigured in us?
6. What is the role of the Spirit in our restoration? (See 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 and Philippians 2:13.)
7. How long do you think it takes to restore the image of God in someone?
8. Why is it important to regularly sit at the feet of Jesus?
9. How do you know what's really true about who God is? (See Colossians 1:15.)
10. What challenges do you face as you grow to be more like Christ?