

SERMON NOTES:

Formed By... | *What is forming you - and who are you becoming?*

Part 1: The First Yes

BIG Idea: The first yes to Jesus is a transfer of allegiance that gives us a new identity and begins a lifetime of being formed into His image.

Application: Identify what has been forming you, renew your yes to Jesus, and take the next clear step of obedience He has placed before you.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>

What repeatedly captures our attention eventually begins training our loves.

You are being formed, whether you are paying attention or not.

Romans 8:29 (NIV)

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed** to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

The algorithm studies the person you currently are, so it can give you more of what keeps you engaged. Jesus calls you beyond the person you currently are and forms you into the person you were created to become.

By whom? Into what? And for what purpose?

Acts 2:37-42 (NLT)

³⁷ Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God." ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

1. You are already being formed by something.

We cannot be formed by Christ without first allowing Christ to confront what has already been forming us.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not **conform** to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Colossians 3:1-10 (NLT)

³ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

The feed does not have to tell you exactly what to think. It only has to decide what you repeatedly think about.

2. The first yes to Jesus is a transfer of allegiance.

Acts 2:38a (NLT)

³⁸ Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Mark 12:29-30 (NLT)

²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'"

Luke 9:23 (NLT)

²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.”

Allegiance says, “Jesus is Lord.”

Identity says, “I belong to Christ.”

Formation says, “I am becoming like the One to whom I belong.”

3. Baptism is the first public yes – and the pattern of every next yes.

Acts 2:41 (NLT)

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

Baptism is the gospel made visible in a human life.

Romans 6:1-4 (NLT)

¹ Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ² Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³ Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Romans 6:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

Romans 6:11-14 (NLT)

¹¹ So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

¹² Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. ¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.

We are not baptized because we have finished becoming like Jesus. We are baptized because we have decided who will form us.

Baptism is not the finish line of discipleship; it is the first public step on the road of obedience.

The first yes to Jesus becomes a lifetime of next yeses.