

The Way part 4 “Become like Jesus”

“Hurry is not of the devil-- it is the devil”

Christians have assimilated into a culture of busyness, hurry and overload. Which leads to God becoming more marginalized in our lives, which leads to a deteriorating relationship with God, which leads to Christians becoming even more vulnerable to adopting secular assumptions about how to live, which leads to more conformity to a culture of busyness, hurry and overload.

What is the highest value in the kingdom of God?

The Way

To be with, to become like Jesus and do the things that Jesus did

Luke 6:39-43

What does this all mean?

2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV

The Greek word there is “metamorphosi”

Is this kind of change possible?

Spiritual Formation in the Christian tradition is the process by one increasingly becomes possessed and permeated by the character traits of Jesus. --- Dallas Willard

Spiritual formation is not a Christian thing...it is a human thing.

We are all being “shaped” and “formed” every minute of every day. Put it another way, we are all a disciple/apprentice of someone or something.

The question is by whom are what are we being shaped?

Unintentional Spiritual Formation

- 1) We are all being formed by the stories that we believe and we tell ourselves
- 2) The habits that we live out

What we do on a regular basis we become, in other words, the things we do, do something to us.

Our habits shape our loves and our longings far more than our thoughts...

- 3) Relationships

All of this has an effect on you and all you have to do is wake up in the morning.

As a follower of Jesus how do we counter this?

How do we change in the midst of all this to become more like Jesus?

2 Myths:

1. Just know the Bible

There is a lot of stuff you know, that you don't do

We cannot think our way to Christ likeness

2. Just let go and let God

Without Him we can't, without us He won't.

“Grace is not opposed to effort it is opposed to earning” –Dallas Willard

How do we change?

1. Teaching

The best kind of teaching gets into your head with a vision of the good life, it undermines the stories you believe about yourself and what the world is trying to convince you of, and moves you into wanting and then choosing to live differently.

“The last shall be first and the first shall be last” Jesus

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven”. Jesus

Romans 12:1-2

Getting right ideas into our head is only the beginning...

2. Practice

Not about trying it's about training

3. Community

Exposure and encouragement

4. Holy Spirit (in place of our environment)

The goal is that the Holy Spirit becomes the greatest influence in our lives.

So how do we change to become more like Jesus?

- Teaching
- Practices
- Community
- Holy Spirit

Is transformation possible? Absolutely possible, but not inevitable

Who are you becoming?