

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of July 28, 2024 A.D.

You Were Created to Become like Christ

Jesus is the head of the church. As his disciples, it is the responsibility of the Church to love God, to love people, and to serve both. Let's talk about that in this lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read John 3:16-18

1. Why did God send his son into the world? What is God's motivation for wanting to save the world? What does it mean "to believe" in Jesus? Are you a person who is saved or are you a person who is condemned?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

2. To be "saved" means to be forgiven of your sins, to be granted eternal life, to be spared from the coming wrath of God, and to be adopted into the family of God. According to verses 8-9, did you earn your salvation in any way? How has your salvation been accomplished?
3. Read verse 10. What does it mean: (a) to be God's workmanship; and (b) to be created in Christ Jesus? Does God have a purpose for your life? If so, are you under an obligation to God to (a) discover your purpose and (b) fulfill your purpose?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

4. Is there anything of more importance to you than to know and to fulfill God's intention and purpose for your life? If so, what is more important and why? Please explain how you have arranged your daily life and activities to enable yourself to increasingly know and fulfill God's purpose for your life.
5. Can a person "be saved" and yet not want to please God? What advice would you give to a person who asks you what they must do in order to live a life which is pleasing to God? Please explain the reasons for and the source of your advice.

6. Is it (a) foolish or (b) wise for a person to want to receive eternal rewards from Jesus? Is it (a) foolish or (b) wise for a person to engage in the behavior which the Bible teaches will be pleasing to Jesus?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1; 4-7; 11

7. Based upon these verses, does God equip each and every Christian with the ability to do good works? If so, why does He do so?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 13

8. What is supposed to be the primary motivation for everything which a follower of Christ might do? Why?

Read John 13:33-35

9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus chose, taught, and trained his disciples for the express and deliberate purpose of preparing them to continue Jesus' earthly mission after Jesus' death."
10. Why is love essential and central to the life of each and every follower of Christ?
11. Read verse 34 very carefully. Does Jesus expect us (i.e. his current-day disciples) to demonstrate to the world and to each other the same manner and measure of love which Jesus demonstrated to his disciples? Is that possible for us to do?

Read Ephesians 3:14-19

12. Is it possible for a Christian to be filled with the love of Christ? Does it take deliberate effort and commitment "to be filled" to the measure of the fullness of God? Is this (i.e. "to be filled to the measure of the fullness of God") a group undertaking which requires the participation of your entire church family? Please explain your role in this undertaking. What are you doing to fulfill your role?

Consider: The church is the body of Christ on earth. As His disciples, we have been commanded to love one another, to make disciples of all nations through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and (in the process) to allow God to conform us to the likeness of Christ. "You think about that." Amen.