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BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

GOD'S PLAN FOR US, HIS PEOPLE

Romans 8:29

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 Peter 1:3-4

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world.

CHAMELEONS OR CATERPILLARS?

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

Ephesians 4:1, 22-24

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received...... You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

JESUS AS OUR EXAMPLE

John 13:13-17

'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord", and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

THERE IS A COST

John 17:13-18

"I am coming to you (the Father) now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they (my disciples) may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.... As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

HOW DO WE PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT?

Matthew 7: 16-18

Do people pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

John 15: 4-5, 16

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.... I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.

Colossians 3:12.14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

WE BECOME MOST LIKE WHAT WE ADMIRE MOST

2 Corinthians 3:18

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.

IN COMMUNITY GROUPS:

To consider - What are the main characteristics of a Christlike life?

For action - Ask Holy Spirit to highlight an area in your life where you can become more Christlike.