

Message Three

Becoming a Reproduction of Christ

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:15; 2:12, 21; Rom. 8:29; Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:16-17a

- I. **As believers in Christ, we may become a reproduction of Christ as our model—1 Pet. 2:21.**
- II. **The living of the Lord Jesus under the government of God is a model so that we may follow in His steps by becoming His reproduction—vv. 21-23; Eph. 4:20-21.**
- III. **The Greek word for *model* in 1 Peter 2:21 denotes a master copy used in the teaching of writing—a writing copy, an underwriting, for students to use in tracing letters as they learn to draw them:**
 - A. The Lord Jesus has set His life before us as an underwriting for us to copy by tracing and following His steps—Matt. 11:28-30.
 - B. It is not God's intention that we try to imitate Christ by our own effort; what we need is not imitation but reproduction—Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18.
- IV. **We need to become Christ's reproduction, copies of Christ, by a process that involves the riches of the divine life; when this process is completed, we will become a reproduction of Christ—John 3:15; Eph. 3:8.**
- V. **In order to become a reproduction of Christ as our model, we need to experience Christ as the One living in us, being formed in us, and making His home in our hearts—Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:16-17a:**
 - A. The New Testament reveals that Christ is deeply related to our inner being—Gal. 1:16; Col. 3:10-11.
 - B. The pneumatic Christ—Christ as the life-giving Spirit—is living in us—1 Cor. 15:45b; Gal. 2:20:
 1. God's economy is that the "I" be crucified in Christ's death and that Christ live in us in His resurrection—John 14:19.
 2. We are one spirit with the Lord, we have one life with Him, and we should now be one person with Him—1 Cor. 6:17; Col. 3:4; Phil. 1:21a.
 3. Since Christ dwells in us as the Spirit, we need to let Him live in us—John 14:16-19; Gal. 2:20.
 - C. To have Christ formed in us is to have Christ fully grown in us—4:19:
 1. Christ was born into us at the time we repented and believed in Him, then He lives in us in our Christian life, and finally, He will be formed in us at our maturity—John 1:12-13; 3:15; Gal. 2:20.
 2. To have Christ formed in us is to allow the all-inclusive Spirit to occupy every part of our inner being, to have Christ fully grown in us—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.
 3. To have Christ formed in us implies that we are being constituted with Christ organically—Col. 3:10-11.
 4. *Formed* in Galatians 4:19 corresponds to *image* in 2 Corinthians 3:18; Christ will be formed in us so that we may express Him in His image.

- D. The Christ who lives in us and who is being formed in us is making His home in our hearts—Eph. 3:16-17a:
1. Christ wants to make His home deep down in our being; He desires to spread from our spirit to all the parts of our heart.
 2. The more Christ spreads within us, the more He settles down in us and makes His home in our hearts; in this way He occupies every part of our inner being, possessing these parts and saturating them with Himself so that we may be filled unto all the fullness of God—v. 19b.
- E. As Christ lives in us, is formed in us, and makes His home in our hearts, we become a reproduction of Christ for the corporate expression of God—Rom. 8:29; 12:4-5; Rev. 21:2.