

You Can Change – Chapter 1

“One of our problems is that we think of holiness as giving up things we enjoy out of a vague sense of obligation. But I’m convinced that holiness is always good news.” (Page 10)

Chapter 1: What Would You Like to Change?

In order to see what we need to change we must understand some very important foundational principles from the Bible.

- Principle 1: We must understand that we are created in God’s _____.

Genesis 1:27, “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him...”

Being made in God’s image means that you are made to _____ God, to share His _____ over the world, and to _____ His glory in the earth.

“We often excuse our actions by saying, ‘I’m only human.’ There’s nothing ‘only’ about being human; we’re truly human as we reflect God’s glory.” (Page 12)

- Principle 2: We must understand that we are a _____ image.

Romans 3:23, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

- Principle 3: We must understand that _____ is the perfect “image of God”.

Colossians 1:15, “He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

John 1:14, “And the Word (God the Son) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

“The glory of God is the sum of all that He is: His love, goodness, beauty, purity, judgment, splendor, power, wisdom, and majesty.” (Page 13)

- Principle 4: God’s agenda for change is for us to become like _____.

Romans 8:28-29, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers."

- Principle 5: Jesus is not only your example but also your _____.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come!"

Ephesians 4:24, "Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

- Principle 6: We reflect God's glory when we _____ God's glory in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:13-18... "not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

"We 'see' the glory of Christ when we 'hear' the gospel. (See 2 Corinthians 4:4-6). Moral effort, fear of judgment, and sets of rules can't bring lasting change. But amazing things happen when we 'turn to the Lord.'" (Page 19)

Reflection questions...

1. Think of specific people you consider to be Christlike. What is it about them that makes them like Jesus? What is it about them that's attractive? What's happened in their lives to make them the people they are?
2. Is your change project about changing your behavior or emotions?
3. Is your change project about something specific?
4. What would it mean for you to be more like Jesus?
5. Can you think of any stories or teachings of Jesus that illustrate what you should be like?

Write a summary of what you would like to change.