

**TO BE LIKE JESUS**  
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Romans 8:26-30

1. There is a little chorus that goes:  
    “To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus, all I ask to be like Him,  
    All through life’s journey, from earth to glory, all I ask to be like Him.”
2. If that chorus reflects the desire of your heart than your desire and God’s will for your life are one and the same.
3. The passage I just read makes it clear that God predestined every true believe to be conformed to the image of His Son.
4. We see this same truth emphasized in other passages.
  - a. Col 3:5-11  
    5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, **since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him** — 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.
  - b. Heb 12:7-11  
    7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.** 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
  - c. 2 Peter 1:1-4  
    Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. **4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
5. From God’s perspective “good” is anything and everything that contributes to our becoming more like Jesus.
6. In order to become more like Jesus we must become less like ourselves (our old nature).

7. The old man must be put away that the new man might hold sway.
8. Sanctification, or growth in Christlikeness, is a process, and this morning I want us to look at three things about Jesus that will be increasingly true of us as we become “more like Him.”

### **I. Jesus delighted in doing God’s will.**

A. Psalm 40 is a Messianic Psalm and it says, “Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me; I delight to do Thy will, O My God; Thy Law is within my heart.” 8

B. Hebrews 10:1-10 makes it clear that this verse is talking about Jesus.

1. Jesus came to do God’s will. 7
2. He came to “offer (His) body once for all.” 10
3. Jesus “delighted” in giving His life as a sacrifice for sin.

C. The Law of God was within Jesus’ heart.

NOTE: To many have God’s Law in their heads but not in their hearts. What was true of Jesus is true of every true child of God. Quoting from Jeremiah 31 the writer of Hebrews wrote the following in Heb 8:10-12.

10 "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: **I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS.** AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 11 "AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE LORD,' FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. 12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

1. Jesus declared, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.” John 5:34
2. Spurgeon wrote, “Herein is the essence of obedience, namely, in the soul’s cheerful devotion to God.”
3. We need to check our heart condition by asking:
  - a. What makes me sad?
  - b. What makes me mad?
  - c. What makes me glad?

D. We should strive for and delight in every manifestation of Christ’s presence and power in us.

### **II. Jesus acted in harmony with God.**

A. Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.” John 8:28

B. As we cheerfully obey God from the heart we will grow in our ability to know and to do the will of God.

1. John 14:10-14
  - a. “The Father abiding in Me does His works.”
  - b. “If you believe in Me what is true in My life will be true in yours.”
  - c. “It is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13

2. Jesus prayed that we would be one with God just as He was.

a. John 17:11

b. John 17:20-23

NOTE: Our unity is not to be artificial but actual based on our common unity with God the Father in Jesus Christ the Son.

### **III. Jesus did what was pleasing to God.**

A. “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” John 8:29

B. Some would argue that what was true in Jesus’ life cannot be true in ours, and yet John wrote, “Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.” I John 3:22

1. “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.” Proverbs 15:3

2. As God’s eyes rested on His Son He said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” Matthew 3:17

3. John stated that what characterized the life of Christ characterized his life as well.

C. As we put off the old man and put on the new man our lives are going to be increasing pleasing to God because He is going to see His Son in us.

D. Many people wear bracelets with the letters WWJD to remind them to ask the question, “What would Jesus do?”

E. There is nothing wrong with that, but I do not think that Jesus, or John for that matter, had to go around with some external reminder to remind them to think about what would and would not please God.

F. Their relationship with God the Father insured that they always lived with that thought on their minds because of what filled their hearts.

### **APPLICATION**

1. Do you delight in doing God’s will?

2. Do you act in harmony with God?

3. Do you do what is pleasing in God’s sight?

4. As you grow in Christlikeness you will be able to answer, “Yes! By the grace of God.”