

Facet # 4

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Exchanged Life Spirituality

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As a Christian believer, our lives are supposed to be a replication of Christ-likeness. When the Bible speaks of being conformed into the image of Christ what is it really speaking of? This new life must be willingly given over for a new life in Christ. We have come from under the law, which is legalism and embraced that of grace, which is liberty. Boa talks on the principles of an exchanged life, the attributes of God and love and acceptance. What do this have to do with finding our identity in Christ?

When we are conformed into the image of Christ we have put down our old nature and picked up the nature of Christ. Because sin came into this world through Adam and Eve, man lost his relationship with God, but through the death and resurrection of Christ, we were once again restored through grace through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17) 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: [a] The old has gone, the new is here! Our flesh is always at battle with our spirit and although this may be true, we are to exercise the fruits of the Spirit, until that day of Christ return and then we shall be like him.

God attributes speaks through scripture. His character tells us of his love and his goodness. The bible says in (Malachi 3:6) For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed. As we live this new life, we look to God as being the bases for which we replicate his character.

Then there is the need to be accepted. Sometimes believers fight battles within themselves as unbelievers do with acceptance and love. When we are looking for outside sources for love and acceptance, will only lead to failure. As we find our identity in Christ, we know that outside of him we will never have our needs met unless we look within.

Therefore, identity, love, and needs will only be found in Christ. We must take off the old man and walk daily in the fruits of the Spirit. The sin that once came through the fall of man, is now restored through Christ. Therefore, we know who we are because we are being made into Christ image. Real love comes through his love that he shows towards us continuously, and we can never find acceptance through anyone or anything other than Christ. When looking at this lesson this verse sums it up (John 15:5) "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Boa, Kenneth. "Conformed to His Image Biblical and Pratical Approaches to Spiritual Formation." Zondervan, 2001.

"Abiding In Christ." 17 Bible Verses about Justification By Faith. Accessed January 23, 2019. <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Abiding-In-Christ>.