

God's goal for us is to make us like Jesus.

1. Conformed

“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.” (Romans 8:29 NIV)

Questions:

- What is your reaction to the word conform?
- What are the negative ways that you sometimes complete the sentence, “I am...?”
- What are the positive ways that you could complete the sentence, I am.....?
- How much do you think that we impose our own experience and culture onto the image of Jesus that we have?

Reflect upon what having the servant, serene and steadfast heart of Jesus in you, looks like in the context of your own personality, experiences and circumstances.

2. Transformed

“We are not seeking to honour a dead hero by emulating His life. We glorify Him by allowing His living presence to transform and change our ordinary lives.”

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (Philippians 2:13 NLT)

Questions:

- Where do you see the evidence of God at work in you, making you more like Jesus?
- Is there someone you could encourage today, by share with them how you have seen Christ-like qualities growing in them?

Reflect upon how God's continuing work of transformation happens in the following ways in your own life.

a) Through testing and trials

"Not only so be we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character and character hope." (Romans 5:3 NIV)

b) Through looking

"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."
(2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV)

c) Through the body of Christ

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." (Eph 4:11-13 NLT)