



Romans 8:29, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

"What should matter to the people is not the pastor's appearance, but whether Christ is speaking through him. And what should matter to the pastor is not the people's favor, but whether Christ is formed in them. The Church needs people who, in listening to their pastor, listen for the message of Christ, and pastors who, in laboring among the people, look for the image of Christ. Only when pastor and people thus keep their eyes on Christ will their mutual relations keep healthy, profitable and pleasing to almighty God. Are you seeking Christ, modeling your life after His, by the power of the Holy Spirit? Are you declaring Christ, presenting Him as the only way to a right relationship with God? Are you working with your pastor, praying for Him and helping Him carry out the tasks of ministry? Are you listening to preachers who put Christ above all else? These searching questions demand honest answers. Survey your situation and examine your heart. See if you need to get your life back on track." – John Stott

I John 4:17, "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

I Timothy 4:7-8, "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

Paul was a great example of what a godly life is. He was a man fully inhabited by and submitted to God.

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Philippians 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 3:4-10, "Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency

of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

When Paul was saved God sent Ananias to him. Ananias questioned God.

Acts 9:15, "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

I. PAUL WAS ALWAYS EXPERIENCING DEATH WITH CHRIST (II COR. 4:10)

A. IDENTIFICATION (II CORINTHIANS 4:10)

The word **bearing** in this verse is the Greek word **periphero** meaning to carry something about.

Romans 6:5, "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"

B. MANIFESTATION (II CORINTHIANS 4:10)

This is the practical sharing of the sufferings of Christ.

Romans 8:36, "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." (quoting Psalm 44:22)

I Peter 2:23, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:"

Philippians 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

Matthew 5:10-12, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

II. PAUL WAS ALWAYS EXPRESSING LIFE IN CHRIST (II COR. 4:10-11)

Paul's life was a constant proof of the living, indwelling Christ.

Zech. 4:6, ". . . Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

"God gave himself for us in order that He might give himself to us and therefore live His life through us." – Adrian Rogers

A. A REBUKE OF OUR PRIDE (I CORINTHIANS 1:29)

B. A RECKONING OF OUR POWER (I CORINTHIANS 1:30)

C. A RESPONSE OF OUR PRAISE (I CORINTHIANS 1:31)

II Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."