

God's Goal for Every Disciple: Christlikeness!

KEY SCRIPTURES ON GOD'S INTENTION FOR EVERY DISCIPLE: CHRISTLIKENESS

Students are not above their teacher,
but all **who are fully trained will be like their teacher.** Luke 6:40

And you should imitate me, **just as I imitate Christ.** 1 Corinthians 11:1

For God knew his people in advance, and **he chose them to become like his Son.** Romans 8:29

And **the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him**
as we are changed into his glorious image. 2 Corinthians 3:18

...until **Christ is fully developed in your lives.** Galatians 4:19

...until we all...**become mature**, attaining to the **whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**
Ephesians 4:13

...so that we may **present everyone fully mature in Christ.** Colossians 1:28

...**train yourself to be godly.** "Physical training is good, **but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.**" 1 Timothy 4:7b-8

Thoughts on becoming Christlike –

*Change begins with the regenerate heart, for only the regenerate heart has the capacity for transformation into **Christlikeness**. This is why I have insisted that Christian spiritual formation is unique. Part of us yearns for a closer relationship with God. That is the basis for any act of faith, or, as I like to call it, action. Desire and intention are proved real only when there is action. Bonhoeffer was fond of saying, "**Only the obedient believe and only those who believe are obedient ... that faith is only real in obedience.**" Faith is not faith unless it acts (see James 2:14-16). Jesus said that faith was following him and answering the call to ministry (see Luke 9:23-27). If a person has a desire to be kind to a difficult person, then faith is taking specific actions of kindness toward that person.*

Bill Hull. Christlike: The Pursuit of Uncomplicated Obedience (p. 168).

*People can't become **Christlike** without accountability, and they can't have accountability without structure, but that structure can be as simple as "We will meet every Tuesday morning at eight and discuss chapter 8 of our book on the spiritual disciplines."*

Bill Hull. Christlike: The Pursuit of Uncomplicated Obedience (p. 179).

*In order to grow in **Christlikeness**, you'll also need to be part of **a community that offers you grace, particularly when you stumble and fall**. To offer grace means treating others better than they deserve to be treated. It means looking past faults to give others our praise and support.*

Bill Hull. Christlike: The Pursuit of Uncomplicated Obedience (p. 181).

"I think that we are coming into a time when many churches and Christian leaders will be able to say, '**It's all about *discipleship* and *transformation into Christlikeness*.'**" ~ Dallas Willard, Living in Christ's Presence: Final Words About Heaven and the Kingdom of God (p. 9).