

# Metamorphosis

## Discussion 1



### SOME CRAZY DEEP NOTES FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON

*Please don't read this bit in your group! Start on the next page with introductions...*

What am I? What is a human? To be wise you need an idea of *what* you are! What am I? There are many ways to answer. The book of Genesis answers with something cool called a *dialectic* - two opposites together. It's not two parts you can separate out – it's two things a human is all the time that cannot be separated! The two parts: *dust* and *image of God*.

Remembering you are *dust* is important – it can make you wise. How?

But knowing that you are *dust* is only half-wisdom! What sort of life does this produce?

Knowing you are *image of God* changes everything. What does it change in how you see yourself or other human beings? What does it change for our choices and morals?

Something has gone wrong and we are no longer perfect images of the original. The *image* is distorted and the *dust* takes over! We have *image problems*. Enter Jesus! He is the very image of God (Col 1:15, Hebrews 1:3, 1 Corinthians 15:47). He is the image we lost – the perfect human and the perfect God all in one! Through his love Jesus transforms us to receive his image. It's an image makeover! Now we become brothers and sisters and one day will be fully like him (Romans 8:29). This is a metamorphosis and it's exciting!

The discussion takes of from there! The sermon is available at [www.ichurch.net.au](http://www.ichurch.net.au)

# GROUP INTRO

You be walking together until Easter! Start with warmth, food, a cuppa or drink. Also (and this matters) please turn off your phones and give real attention! You might like to start with one or two of these questions:

- *What is the worst style choice you ever made?*
- *If you were forced to sing karaoke what song would you pick?*
- *What are you giving up for Lent? What do you think of the practice of fasting?*

## WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?

TELOS: *the end to which things relate, the aim, purpose*

TELEOLOGY: *seeing the meaning of something through the outcome*

Some of the best leaders I know love to do teleology! This means they keep the purpose or end in mind. I love watching a leader like Ben coach his team. He listens, encourages, draws out the best from them. But when he sees them going off track, he calls the group back to its purpose by asking a question like “what is our goal?” or “what are we here for?”

- *So why are you here in this group?*
- *What are some goals you have?*
- *What do you live for?*
- *Since Jesus did it all, since we receive this for free and there is absolutely NOTHING to do to be loved by God... What is definitely NOT the purpose/telos of Christian life?*

## WHAT IS THE GOAL/PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN LIFE?

Reflect on this piece of awesomeness...

### **1 Peter 1:3-5**

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

- *What is your favourite part? / What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying in this?*

It would be dumb if the purpose of Christian life was just to “stay saved” or to “keep what you got!” Some Christians think that because we are saved by grace then our role is just to not mess up so we don’t lose it (which is wrong on multiple levels!). But after *justification*: being saved, comes *sanctification*: a wonderful life of growth in the Holy Spirit! As we live with Jesus, over time we experience going deeper into the love of God.

- *Name some who mentored you in faith? What did you admire in them?*
- *What sorts of things do we see in people as they grow spiritually?*
- *Name one way the Holy Spirit grown and changed you.*
- *What aspects of the life of Christ do you want to grow in?*

## IT IS YOUR DESTINY? (THANKS VADER!)

My favourite chapter of the Bible is Romans 8. If you had time you could open up and point out your own favourite parts in this chapter. Towards the end we discover a huge word – usually translated ‘*predestined*’. This is a word that has created many arguments.

### ***Romans 8:29***

***For those whom God foreknew he also predestined to be formed in the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.***

#### **NOTE FOR THOSE DISTRACTED BY THE WORD PREDESTINED**

Please do not get hung up on the word ‘predestined’ as it is misunderstood when taken out of context. A few facts to get straight about this word’s use:

1. The Bible only uses the word ‘predestined’ four times! It is never used of individual people. It has nothing to do with one individual being predestined to go “up” and another to go “down”. This word is never used to refer to going to heaven – it is for something better.
2. Every time this word is used it is of a group who will share a path.
3. This word usually means something like “a set path to follow”.
4. So this word describes the path set out for those who believe.  
IF you believe in Jesus THEN the path set for you together is...

Once you are settled about the P-word, reflect on the Bible passage a bit!

**IF THIS WORD DOES NOT BOTHER YOU THEN JUST MOVE ON!**

- *What does it mean to 'be formed in the image of the Son?'*
- *What does it mean that Jesus will be the 'firstborn among many brothers and sisters?'*
- *What do you love about this verse?*

## **WHAT IS SPIRITUAL FORMATION?**

Following Jesus means a journey of being *formed* by God's grace! Being a disciple means being an "apprentice". So the joyful exciting purpose of our Christian life now is to become like our Saviour Jesus. Our salvation is totally assured, so now we joyfully follow and rest in his transforming presence! (Matt 11:28-30).

### ***Spiritual Formation Is:***

***A journey  
of increasingly being formed  
by the character of Jesus Christ  
as we live in his presence and rest in his grace.***

- *What's your favourite part of that definition?*
- *What don't you like in it or needs to be clearer?*
- *How do we become formed, morphed, to share the image of Christ?*
- *What are the tools God uses to form us?*
- *How does it work?*

## **CLOSE WITH PRAYER**