

## **The Goal of Evangelism!**

### **Romans 8.28-31**

#### **Intro:**

Many have put themselves in opposition to God by their lifestyles (2 Tim. 2.25). Some have gotten caught up into many snares in life and have many discouragements (1 Tim. 6.9). Finally, some have wrecked their lives with immoral practices and now are experiencing the hardships of life.

So what is needed? How can these things be fixed? Is there any hope for these issues in life? The formation of the character of Christ in mankind is and must be the goal for seeking and saving the lost and helping people with these challenges in life.

Paul would tell the Galatians, “*My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed or fashioned in you...*” (4.19). In other words, he would keep working with them till they allow the mind of Christ to govern them in all areas of life.

Yet, for this to happen, *the remission of sins* must take place first with the sinner (Acts 2.38; Heb. 9.22).

*The cleansing of the conscience* and *the freedom from the guilt of sin* must be experienced (Heb. 9.14).

To be like Christ in every way possible, taking on righteousness and holiness in the fear of God is the aim and goal for the child of God.

To be obedient to the will of the Father, therefore, loving righteousness and hating iniquity is important as people of God to help those who need to be conformed/changed into the image of Christ.

Why? How? What will it take? The answer! **God’s Plan of Redemption!**

God’s Scheme or plan of Redemption is to conform men and women to Christ according to Romans 8:28-31.

But who is Christ? What are His characteristics? Why make Him my iconic figure?

The goal of evangelism is for conformed people to Christ and to go out and persuade sinners to be conformed to Christ. Matthew 28:18-20.

#### **Discussion:**

##### **I. Who is Christ? What are His characteristics? Why make Him my iconic figure?**

A. He is the example from God of holiness and righteousness. (1 Pet. 2.21)

B. Some of His characteristics:

1. *Humility and Meekness*
2. *Honesty and Transparency*
3. *Understanding and Serving*
4. *Compassionate and Merciful*
5. *Stern and Serious*

- C. Why make Him my Iconic (*respected*) figure?
1. *Because He is worthy of putting on (Gal. 3.26-27)*
  2. *Because His mindset benefits me and all men (Phil. 2.1-5)*
  3. *Because He will hide (krypto) me properly inside of Him (Col. 3.1-3)*
  4. *Because His will is always for my good and God's glory (Acts 10.38)*
  5. *Because He will never leave me nor forsake me (Heb. 13.5)*

## II. Why is Romans 8:28-31 important to this discussion?

- A. Because of the **Power of the Gospel** to make people like Christ (Rom. 1:16).
1. The gospel is what calls us to change to be like Christ (2 Thess. 2:14).
  2. Without the gospel, we have no way to the Father (1 Cor. 15:1-8)
  3. This power saves me from sin and God's wrath (Acts 2:38; Rom. 5:8-9).
- B. Because of the **Conformity** we have towards Christ Image (8:29)
1. Because our Christ-like identity is God's motivation for mankind.
  2. Who doesn't want good in their lives?
  3. Who doesn't want a past tense life? 1 Cor. 6:9-11, *and such were some of you. Past tense behaviors. I use to be... but now I'm...*
- C. Because God wants us to **Resemble** His Son Jesus (**Image-Ikon**)
1. The goal of Evangelism is to get men and women to this point in life.
  2. This is why we live as Christians and shine our light (Matt. 5:13-16).
  3. This is why it's "go ye means go me..." (Acts 8.4). *Went everywhere preaching the word.*

## III. The goal of evangelism is to conform people to Christ!

- A. To bring men and women to change their way of thinking about life and godliness.
- B. To win them over through consistency and compassion for their situation in life.
- C. To get people to see their sin as hurting the holiness of God and desiring to change.
- D. To persuade people to embrace the abundant life in Christ (John 10.10).
- E. To simply get better and be a better human being.

### Conclusion:

So much can be said about Christ and how we can truly be like Him. It will take everything we have to deny ourselves, take up His cross and follow Him. May the God of heaven be merciful unto us as we do our part helping people to simply be better and fulfill the goal of evangelism.