

Greater Works Christian Church
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Recap: Last week we looked at Matthew 7:21-23.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

My focus was primarily on the phrase and concept of “you who practice lawlessness!”

We found that Jesus pursues those who keep His commands. Those who “practice lawlessness” have nothing of Christ within them, so He “never knew” them.

Knew/Know (1097) *ginosko*

1. To learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of, perceive, feel
2. Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between and husband and wife

Note: This word speaks of intimacy; knowing someone or something through intimate contact.

The opposite of Practicing Lawlessness would be Practicing the Law. To put it another way, keep the commands of the Lord. By doing this we will be known intimately by Jesus.

John 14:15

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Those who truly love Jesus will do what He said to do.

1 Corinthians 8:3

But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

When we express our love for God by doing what He has commanded, we will be “known by Him.”

Created in His Image

We must ask ourselves, why is God interested in us as He is? Why is He so concerned with us and that we read, learn and do His word? After all we are fallen beings, engulfed in sin and lost. Why would He be interested in us?

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

As we can plainly see, God created us in His Image. Adam (mankind) was created to be like God. We were created to have God's image and likeness, which includes His creativity, authority and dominion, power, goodness, love, etc.

This of course was before the fall. After the fall, many would assume that man fell from the image of God. This is not so...

1 Corinthians 11:7

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

Speaking of Prayer and Prophecy, Paul writes that men are the Image and Glory of God. This is after the fall.

James 3:8-9

8 But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

v.9) *the word "Similitude" can be translated Image or Likeness.*

James is pointing out that men in general are made in the Image (similitude) of God.

Both these passages are After the Fall. Man didn't lose God's image in the fall, but the understanding of the Image of God was marred and perverted in man because of the fall.

It wasn't the Image of God that was perverted but man's ability to understand and operate in/and from God's Image.

God Pursues His Image

Remember: Jesus said, "I never knew you" (Matt 7:23). This shows us that Jesus makes it His priority to Know Us, or to put it another way, He pursues us.

Jesus not only desires a relationship with us, but He chases after us seeking that relationship. He is after the Image of God within us.

2 Timothy 2:12-13

12 If we endure, We shall also reign with *Him*. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us.

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

When someone denies Christ he also denies himself, because he was made in the image of God. Jesus will deny that one because when he denied God he also denied himself, thus taking him out of the path of Christ's pursuit.

Those who struggle in their faith in God (but had not denied Him), Jesus remains faithful to that one. Jesus will pursue him because He is after the Image of God within them.

Jesus cannot deny Himself.

Deny (720) *arneomai*

- Deny; to disregard his own interests or to prove false to himself

For Jesus to deny Himself would be to disregard his own interests and to prove false to Himself. This He will Not do!

Conclusion:

1 John 3:2-3

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

When we were saved, it was not merely to get us out of hell and into heaven. Salvation is to restore that which has been lost. The purity of the Image of God in man was lost. Jesus is seeking the purity of His Image in us. This is what we are being restored to.

