

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

August 4, 2019

Imitation -vs- Transformation

You may not have read it, but I know you have heard of it. The book *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* has sold over 50,000,000 copies. It's one of the best-selling books of all time. More recently the concept of *WWJD* was popularized with wristbands, t-shirts and jewelry. It's an awesome concept. In all situations, ask yourself "*what would Jesus do?*" and act on it. After all, we all want to imitate Jesus in everything we do ... right? Well, yes and no.

An article written by John Coe challenged me to think more deeply about this (*the article: Resisting the Temptation of Moral Formation*). While imitating Jesus is quite good, there can also be something about it that can be quite wrong. You see, character imitation that does not come from a transformed heart is not fully what Jesus came to produce in his disciples. Behavioral modification because that's what Jesus did is only "*me*" choosing externally to be conformed to his actions. So, in every situation that arises I would need to stop and think, "*What would Jesus do?*" Then "*I*" would have to determine what Jesus would do in that situation, and then decide if "*I*" would act like him.

There is something better. It's called transformation (*Romans 12.2*). So, what's the difference between the two? Imitation makes decisions with the head. For example, I know Jesus was

compassionate, so my head tells me I need to be compassionate. One flaw is that I can't do everything Jesus did. Another is that I can *act* with compassion without *being* compassionate at all. Imitation does not require my heart to be in it. In fact, my heart may even oppose the action my head says is the right thing to do. Perhaps that's one reason why there is sometimes conflict within us: *my heart's not in the things I know I should be doing*.

But when my heart is transformed, things are different. I don't want to just *act* like Jesus, I want to *be* like Jesus. I want my transformed heart to guide my head to act like him. I not only want to be compassionate like he was, I also want to be compassionate *why* he was. I want to love people so much that whenever I see a need for compassion, I won't have to ask, "*What would Jesus do?*", I'll just do it ... like the Good Samaritan Jesus told us about (*Luke 10*). That's not to say that the head is not engaged. It is. It is a necessary part of being like Jesus. In fact, a renewed mind is a necessary step in a transformed heart (*Romans 12.2*). But now my head and my heart are acting in unity. There'll be no internal conflict when my transformed heart guides my head into acting like Jesus.

So now, when I ask *WWJD*, it will be because I have Jesus in my heart and want to *be* like him in every way possible. It will not be a burden to act like him or to keep his commandments because our hearts are filled with his love (*John 14.15*; *1 John 5.3*). Turmoil and guilt are replaced with joy and peace. The need for perfection is eliminated when our transformed hearts are walking in the light with Jesus (*1 John 1.7*).

Imitation or transformation? Which have you been choosing?

— Joe Chesser

The Christian Pledge

I will do more than belong; I will participate.

I will do more than care; I will help.

I will do more than believe; I will practice.

I will do more than watch; I will work.

I will do more than earn; I will enrich.
I will do more than teach; I will inspire.
I will do more than give; I will serve.
I will do more than live; I will grow.
I will do more than be friendly; I will be a friend.

- Selected

Upcoming Events :

Gospel Meeting :

Cowden Church of Christ

Corner ... Cedar and Fifth Sts

Date : August 16 & 17

Time : 7:00 p.m. Friday 6:00 p.m. Saturday

Speaker : Billy Willis from Brownwood, Texas

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Writing tablets, stationery, Black ink pens, Small white envelopes

Birthday : Pete Rankin August 8

Anniversary : Pat and Stan August 6
Madonna and Mike August 10

Reading: I Corinthians 13: 1-13 ; James 1: 19-25

NEXT WEEK : (August 11, 2019)

Song Leader : Stan

Scripture Reader : Butch

Table & Announcements : Tim

Prayer List : .

Susan Bowyer : Susan was back in the hospital, but is now home again. New meds have here stabilized her.

Doris Faulkner: Doris being treated and is improving a little.

Kathy Minser: (*Reynolds' sister*), Tests have not located the source of her breathing and swallowing problems.

Betty Lowe : Betty was able to be with us last week, but's still awaiting word on how they'll treat her heart issues and cancer.

Stanley Rich : (*Jonathan's uncle*), Stanley is improved enough they released him from the hospital. He's back with JD & Mary

Shelly Kruger : Pete's niece is battling cancer and it's a real struggle. She is in urgent need of prayers.

Mike Nichols : Mike continues to show incremental progress

Ruby Bradd : The 2 yr old daughter of Stephen & Ranae Bradd is in St. John's Children's Hospital being treated for stage 4 cancer, Ruby is one of 8 siblings the oldest is 17 yrs and the youngest 4 months. Stephen preaches at Clinton and has preached here in Shelbyville. We lift up this family.

Wayne : This afternoon Wayne will go to St. Louis to be screened to see if he'll qualify to receive a transplant in future.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law is holding his own.

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend has severe kidney failure due to diabetes. His condition is deteriorating.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !