

The Heart of the Father Transforming into a the Image of Christ Living Water Christian

God has this amazing agenda, purpose and passion for our lives... He really desires you to be formed, conformed and transformed into

Becoming Christ—the incarnation of the believer

(Gal 4:19) My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is **formed** in you,

(Rom 8:29) For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed** to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

(2 Cor 3:18) And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Formed: a particular condition, character, or mode in which something appears

Conformed: to make similar in form, nature, or character.

Transformed: to change in form, condition, nature, character or appearance,.

- Genesis 1:27 - "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them
- **So what are we being Transformed, formed an Conformed into...an incarnational Christ likeness**
- An incarnational ministry means that the church goes to people the way Jesus did!
- It means that we represent Him
- At the heart of being incarnational is simply loving people like Jesus loved people; loving people enough to go to them.

Being transformed into Christ likeness

A. Change your perceptions

In Life...What do you see? What has your attention, what has your focus?
This is essential...for many reasons...

Vision determines Direction

Perception determines reality.... Most **deceptions** are due to **improper** perceptions

B. Release through revelation, Christ likeness into your heart

C. Value each individual as a distinct image of God

1. Honors people as unique creations of God.
2. Views each individual as a Image Bearer
3. Views people through the Lenz of their purpose rather than through the brokenness of sin

D. Focus on redeeming culture as well as humanity

1. Refuse “socially cocooning” , by properly engaging and connecting in the culture
2. Be committed to establishing authentic, and real relationships
3. Identify and meet “felt needs” of a community through action and prayer

E. Become like Christ, representing Him in the Culture

1. Jesus was called a “friend of sinners” (Matt 11:19)
2. He welcomed and accepted individuals regardless of their reputation (Luke 7:39)

(Luke 7:39) When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is--that she is a sinner."(Luke 19:7) All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

3. He loved the outcast and ate with them (Matt 9:11)

(Mat 9:11) When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

He embraced the ultimate outcast (Mat 8:1-3)

4. He broke cultural norms to accept them. **(Luke 8:43-48)**
5. Jesus refused to view people through the filter of sin (John 8:2-12)
6. Jesus was willing to associate and connect with the rejected and hated (Luke 19:1-10)

(Luke 19:1-10) Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. {2} A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. {3} He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. {4} So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. {5} When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." {6} So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. {7} All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" {8} But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." {9} Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. {10} For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."