

Conformed to the Image of His Son

Sermon 29 in the Romans Series

Romans 8:29-30

Intro: The immediate context of our passage is Romans 8:28. The concluding verses in Romans take us to the solid ground of the hope that we have.

I. Conformity to Christ is the Object of Predestination

A. We are made to be conformed to Him in our nature

He is the unique son of God.

The Athanasian creed “*Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the father.*”

As new creatures in Christ “*We are begotten again unto a lively hope.*”

The fall becomes a classic example of how God works all things together for good to those who love Him.

We have a nature we never had before, given to us by God.

Through Christ we truly are New Creations

B. We are made to be conformed to Him in our relationship

Our Lord is the eternally begotten Son of the Highest.

1 John 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**.

C. We are made to be conformed to Him in our experience

1. Of suffering

2. In relation to men

3. With regard to Satan

4. Exposed to evil in this world. As to the existence of evil Christ encountered it everywhere and so shall we. Sometimes it wore religious robes.

D. We are made to be conformed to Him in our Character

The ultimate transformation is in the eternal state.

But the promise of the eternal does not negate the responsibility of the present.

He is transforming us – now.

This includes moral transformation – which includes “bearing fruit.”

II. Three more Links in the Golden Chain

A. Called (v. 28, v. 30)

Literally “Called Ones”.

This is Effectual Calling.

This is the change of heart that only He can make.

B. Justified

God’s declaration that we are “not guilty.”

A heart changed by God – NOW receives Jesus as Lord and Savior by faith.

C. Glorified

All of the verbs in the golden chain are in the aorist tense – including “glorified”.

This one is the most difficult – although all who hold to orthodoxy believe that Christians will be resurrected and glorified at the last day.

The aorist really isn’t a past tense. It is a tense that shows completed action.

It can be completed in the past, present, or future.

The foreseen ones – are the predestined ones

And the predestined ones are the called ones

And the called ones are the justified ones

And the justified ones are the glorified ones.

The chain cannot be broken – and it is all because of God Himself.