

Changed, But for the Good

Ephesians 4:22-4:24 “*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*”

We must understand that change is sometimes _____

- **Proverbs 24:21** - “*My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:*”
- This kind of change can refer to those that are straying away from a Godly life

Sometimes we may blame our bad change because of the _____ around us

The real problem goes much deeper and reminds us of an important Bible principle to understand about change: “*Our greatest problems are never around us; they are _____ us.*”

- **James 4:1:** “*From whence come wars and fightings among you [the outward, visible problems]? come they not hence, even of your lusts [the inward desires of the heart] that war in your members?*”
- **Jeremiah 17:9** “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*”

- **I Peter 1:15-16** *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.”*

Paul testified that the Holy Spirit’s _____ in a man’s life is one of the main _____ of that man’s salvation. He said, *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Rom. 8:14).*

Here are some guides on how we can change for the good...to be more like Christ:

- I. There must be _____
 - a. We must acknowledge our _____
 - i. **Isaiah 64:6** *“But we are all as an unclean [thing], and all our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*
 - ii. Our _____ keeps us from acknowledging our need for change
 - iii. **Lam 3:40** *“Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD”*
 - b. We must acknowledge the _____ of God
 - i. We will never change into God’s image unless we fully understand how GREAT God really is!

Maybe the reason why we are not changed into God’s image is because we don’t have the right image of God...

- II. There must be _____

- a. Acknowledgement does no _____ unless there is confessing
- b. **Proverbs 28:13** *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*
- c. _____ is the key to confession!
 - i. **Philippians 2:5-8** *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

- III. There must be _____ (an effort to secure or detain)
 - a. **Deuteronomy 4:29** *“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”*
 - b. **Jeremiah 29:13** *“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”*
 - c. Most Christians are content with just being “_____” by God and not willing to pursue Him enough to be changed.
 - d. There isn’t anything that gives God more glory than when we place _____ in seeking and pursuing His presence in our lives