

becoming



Sermon Notes



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Becoming: Sermon Notes

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WHO ARE YOU BECOMING?

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:3–11

WHO WE ARE BECOMING IS

RECEIVED FROM GOD (v. 3–4)

- Who is responsible for our “Becoming?”

Only God can make people godly.

Thomas Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, 292

- What do we receive from God?
- How do we become like God?
- Union with Christ

Through union, believers are identified with Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, and communicates all his blessings of salvation: grace, regeneration, redemption, eternal life, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

Gregg Allison, “Union with Christ,” 216

- Indwelt by the Holy Spirit

To be controlled, permeated, or pervaded by the Holy Spirit.

Gregg Allison, “Filled with the Holy Spirit,” 85

BUILT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (v. 5–7)

- How do we reconcile “our effort” with “God’s work?”

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is...

Galatians 5:22

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12–13

- Sanctification

The cooperative work of God and Christians (Phil. 2:12–13) by which ongoing transformation into greater Christlikeness occurs.

Gregg Allison, “Sanctification,” 187

We do not automatically become more virtuous as if God infused virtue into us intravenously; we need to make plans and expend effort.

Peter H. Davids, *The Letters of 2 Peter and Jude*, 179

- Who are we being built into?
 - Faith—trust in God & faithfulness to God
 - Virtue—goodness; moral excellence
 - Knowledge—practical wisdom & discernment
 - Self-control—self-restraint
 - Steadfastness—endurance/perseverance in Jesus
 - Godliness—piety; godly action
 - Brotherly Affection (*Philadelphia*)—familial affection
 - Love (*agape*)—Christian love; to act lovingly toward on another

Love is not only the last and greatest Christian virtue; it is also the ‘glue’ that holds all the rest of them together, the quality without which all the others will be less than they should be.

Douglas J. Moo, *2 Peter, Jude*, 47

LIVED OUT BY US (v. 8–11)

- How do we begin to live out who we are becoming?
- Spiritual Habits—“means of grace”

We need to learn how we cooperate with ‘the means of grace’ that God has ordained for the transformation of the human personality. Our participation in these God-ordained ‘means’ will enable us increasingly to take into ourselves Christ’s character and manner of life.

Richard Foster

“Becoming Like Christ: What Is Supposed to Happen in the Christian Life”

Virtue . . . is what happens when someone has made a thousand small choices, requiring effort and concentration, to do something which is good and right but which doesn’t ‘come naturally’—and then, on the thousand and first time, when it really matters, they find that they do what’s required ‘automatically.’

N. T. Wright, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*, 20

Who we are becoming is received from God, built with the Holy Spirit, and lived out by us.

There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.

Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the same Direction*, 10

Who are you becoming?