

The Character of Him Must Be Molded

Romans 8:28-29, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Let us listen to God's Prophet for our age:

Now, Jesus gave us the Example of what we ought to be looking at, when He reflected His Life to us through the Word, what we should see. When we look into God's mirror, **we should see ourselves identified with Him. That is a perfect Example.**

Now, but we find out that, as we go along through life, **that our character molds the image that we are.** Each one knows that. **Your character molds you to what you are. Now, you have seen people that you just love to be around,** yet they might not exactly be in your bracket of society. And, again, they might be of a different race, the colored, or the brown, or the yellow. **But there's just something about that character, that you just love to be in their presence.** Because each person is a little dynamo of their own, **and you put out an atmosphere.**

And then you see people that were noble people, but yet you were always glad to get away from them. It's just they create such an atmosphere around where you are. Nothing against them, they're nice people, but you just don't like that atmosphere, they're in. **And their character creates whatever they are, makes them what they are.**

Now, with our Message, can we stand by the looking glass of God's Word and see Christ reflect in our own lives then? Can we bear such, and the reproach of the Message that we're standing for here? Someone can say something about It, **and yet you just don't open your mouth** and say nothing about it. He was the example, because God was reflecting His character in Him (*I Peter 2:21-24*). And then if we're sons and daughters of God, **God reflects His character in us, then we become like Him.** That's my heart's desire. I think that's every believer's desire, is to become more like Him (*I John 3:1-3*).

Oh, no other nature could do this. No. Cause, **He was the molded perfect character of God.**

For, it was a fallen character that all nature had (*Rom. 3:9-12*). **All men had a fallen character.** Even everything that was under man fell. Everything has got a **dying character.**

And He had a **living character**, so He expressed it in Christ, and He paid the price. And then because of His obedience, He raised Him up on the third day. See?

That gives to us the proof. It gives to us the assurance, that, **as long as we're in Him**, we're already risen with Him (*Eph. 2:4-7*).

We are invited to shape our own character to His, by His grace. We are invited, think of it, to become characters like His. If we are ready to lay our character down (*Heb. 12:1-3*), and the molding that we had, "Heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, false accusers, and incontinent, despisers of those that are trying to do right, having a form of godliness and denying the power of the Word." (*II Tim. 3:1-5*).

We've got to take the entire, full Gospel. We must. And now, being that we have identified ourselves as full Gospel people, **let's mold our character.** We're **invited to be molded in His Image, that we might reflect His Presence.** "And the works that I do, shall you do also (*John 14:12*). The Life that I live, so shall you." We're invited, by God, **to take Him as an Example, and let our character be molded like His.** What a thing!

Then, when we let His character be in us, then we have become sons, by having **the mind of Christ, which is His character.** **Your mind makes your character.** Paul said, "**this mind that was in Christ, be in you.**" (*Phil. 2:5-11*). **It molds the character of a son of God.**

We want to make this Bible our looking glass (*II Cor. 3:18*), **and let ourselves be molded by His character; having His character,** His mind, letting the mind that was in Christ be in us.

What was His mind to do, the mind that was in Christ? **Always to stay with the Father's Word.** No matter what looked glossy, and what looked this way, it didn't make any difference to Him. The Father's Word is what counted. Everywhere, when He met the Devil, He never even used His power to defeat him. **He used the Word, because that was Him.**

Did you ever think? He never wrote a book when He was on earth. As far as we know, He never wrote but one time. That was in the sand (*John 8:2-11*). Then erased it out, probably, afterwards. Why didn't He write a word? Because He was the Word. See? **He lived the Word.** We don't

need so many books, when you become a written epistle of God (*II Cor. 3:1-3*). That's what God wants you to be, images of Him. [1]

And so will the Church come through Justification, Sanctification, Baptism of the Holy Ghost (restoration of gifts), **right on into the formed image of Christ. Christ is the Bridegroom, the Church is the Bride, and the Bride is a part of the Bridegroom.** It'll have to be a **Word Church**, not a denominational church. It'll be the Word Church, the Word that's made known, and by the vindicated Word of God. [2]

God flowed through Him just like the wind would flow through a building, or like the water flows down a stream. Him and the Word being One. **No other character could do it, for He was the only One that was born without carnal.** All the rest of them were by sexual desire, by carnal. He was born without sex desire. He was the virgin born (*Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 7:14*).

God identified Himself as we are. He took His strain, what He was, His strain as God, and stretched His tent down here and became human. **He made Himself a tent, a body to live in, and that body is known as Jesus. God lived in Christ (*II Cor. 5:18-19*).** See, **He became human, in order to save us.** And He took our form upon Him (*Rom. 8:3-4*), **that He might mold in us His character.**

And His character was, that He did everything that pleased God, and He stayed with the Word. That's what He wanted us for, we stay with God's Word, find our place, and then know where we were at. Stay with His Word! And, think of it, **we are invited to shape our own character to His. Now we're going to find out what we've done. Shape our character to His Own, by His Own Spirit.** Then we, by Him, are sons of God, by having His mind in us, **to shape our character to His,** His mind. "Let the mind that was in Christ be in you." If that mind is in you, then, you see...

He only did that which pleased God. **He knowed Who He was.** He came, the Son of God. He knowed He was to take that place. His character had to be that way. And then when He, having taken this place, He knowed what the Messiah was required of, and He always sought at God to do those things, **and did nothing until the Father showed Him.**

Now if you find your place, sister, don't let me hurt you, or brother, **but you'll find your place in the Word, as a Christian.** Not what the creed said; that's down here in this lower cannon fodder that's going to be destroyed. See, you find your place as a Christian, **because your**

character is molded as Christ's. You are Zoe the same as He was Zoe. Then if the Bible said for "a woman not to cut her hair," how can you do it? (*I Cor. 11:1-16*). It says "a man is the ruler of the house," how can you women be? What's the matter with you men that's sons of God? See, you don't find your place. You're invited to come and take His character. **By having His character in you, it molds you into the same mind that He was, and His mind was always to do what the Father had ordained Him to do.**

He said, "Search the Scripture. They testify of Me." (*John 5:39-40*). In other words, "If I don't do exactly what the Scripture said I'm to do, then show Me where." [3]

You cannot, no way, ever produce a Character like that; **only, accepting that Character in you.** A church cannot do that. A creed cannot do that. A denomination cannot do that. An education cannot do that. **It must be a Birth** (*I Peter 1:23*). It's got to be a dying out, and let God in, by the grace of Christ, **mold this type of character in you, that you become Him, and your life and His is the same,** then you are sons and daughters of God. [1]

Sin is beautiful to the eyes of the world, but God is not featured in that kind of beauty. Did you know that? **God is featured in character, beautiful character.** [4]

I was speaking on a man choosing himself a wife, **"It reflects his character and his ambitions."** When he takes a young girl to be his wife; he takes, you know, a modern girl that's a common Ricketta, it just shows what he's... If he marries a beauty queen or a sex queen, whatever it is, it shows his, **what's really in the man.** But a Christian, **he looks for character in a woman,** because he is planning a future home with that woman. He gets a homemaker. And I said, "Then, Christ, according to His Word here, tells us what **our future home will be** (*John 14:1-3*). What kind of a wife will He choose then, a denominational prostitute? Never! **He'll choose a woman that's characterized by His Word, and that will be the Bride.**" [5]

But, you know, you have to plan, look, pray, when you're choosing. For, we see, by this, the Word of promise. She, the bride that a man would choose, is going to **reflect his character.** It reflects what's in him.

Now, could you imagine a man, filled with the Holy Ghost, take something like that to be a wife? I just don't see it, brother. I just can't

understand that, see, **notice, for it's going to reflect what's in him.** She is going to help him make his future home.

Now, then, when we change back now for a moment, to the spiritual side. And when you see a church that's in the world, acts like the world, anticipating in the world, partaking of the world, counting God's Commandments as if He never had wrote Them (*Matt. 22:34-40*), then you can just imagine Christ ain't going to take a Bride like that. Could you imagine taking the modern church today for a Bride? Not my Lord. I could hardly see that. No. Remember, now, **a man and his wife are one.** Would you join yourself to a person like that? If you would, it would certainly kind of disappoint my faith in you.

And, then, how about God joining Himself to something like that, a regular denominational prostitute? You think He would do it, "Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof"? (*II Tim. 3:1-5*). He would never do it. **She must have His character in her. The real, true born-again Church must have the character that was in Christ, because the husband and wife are one.** And if Jesus did only that which pleased God, **kept His Word and manifested His Word, His Bride will have to be of the same kind of character** (*John 5:19-20*).

The true Bride attracts the attention of God, by keeping His Word. Now notice. **Now let us notice Christ.**

You say, "Well, now, wait a minute, what about this beauty you're talking about?" The Bible said in Isaiah 53:2 that, when Jesus come, "There was no beauty of Him, that we should desire Him." That right? There's no beauty. If He would have come in the worldly beauty, as Satan is today, the people would have run around Him and accept Him the way they do the church today. They would have believed Him and received Him, as they do Satan today. Certainly, they would. But He didn't come in that kind of a beauty, **but He always comes in the beauty of character.** There, Christ wasn't a beautiful, great, strong, stout Man. **God doesn't choose that kind.**

I remember one time a prophet went up to take a king, to make a king out of Jesse's son, to take another king's place, Saul. And so Jesse brought him out, his great, big, fine boy. He said, "The crown will look right, on his head." (*I Sam. 16:1-13*). The prophet went to pour the oil on him. He said, "God has refused him." And He refused every one of them, till he come to a little, old stoop-shouldered, ruddy-looking fellow. And he poured the oil upon him, and he said, "God chose him." See? **We choose by sight. God chooses by character.**

Character, there never was a character like Jesus Christ.

Now, just a moment now. That's it. **He chooses a Bride to reflect His character, to which the modern churches of today certainly misses His program** here, a million miles, 'cause they deny This to be the Truth. So how could it be? Now, **He's looking for the day for that Bride to be formed** (*Heb. 13:8; Rom. 8:29*), just exactly like He was. It's got to be **His same flesh, same bones, same Spirit, same everything**, just exactly built up, **and them two then become one** (*Eph. 5:30-32*). **Until the church becomes that, they're not one. The character of Him, the Word for this age, must be molded. She must be molded like He is.**

He's looking for her character, **the character of Christ.** [6]

Character is a victory, not a gift (*II Tim. 2:11-13*). **A man without character can't reign because power apart from character is satanic. But power with character is fit to rule.** You have to suffer to reign (*Rom. 8:17*). **The reason for this is that character simply is never made without suffering** (*James 1:2-5*). And since He wants us to share even His throne on the same basis that He overcame and is set down in His Father's throne (*Rev. 3:21*), then we have to overcome to sit with Him. And the little temporary suffering we go through now is not worthy to be compared to the tremendous glory that will be revealed in us when He comes (*II Cor. 4:11-18*). Oh, what treasures are laid up for those **who are willing to enter into His kingdom through much tribulation** (*Acts 14:22*).

"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to try you." (*I Peter 4:12-14*). That is what Peter said. **Is it strange that God wants us to develop a Christ-like character that comes through suffering?** No sir. **And we all have trials.** We are all tried and chastened as sons. Not one but goes through that. **The church that is not suffering, and is not being tried, hasn't got it, isn't of God.**

"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." (*Heb. 12:4-11*). [7]

But, there is a gold of God. *I Peter 1:7, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth."* **The gold of God is a Christ-like character produced in the fiery furnace of affliction.** That is the right kind of gold (*Isaiah 48:10*).

But what kind of gold does the church have today? It has but the worldly gold that will perish. It is rich. It is complacent. It has made

affluence the major criterion of spirituality. The evidence of God's blessing and the correctness of doctrine, etc. is now based upon how many rich folks are involved in it.

"You had better come before it is too late," saith the Lord, "and buy of Me gold tried in the fire and then you will be truly rich." (*Rev. 3:15-19*). Are we getting it? Listen to me, "Naked (physically) we came into the world, **but naked (spiritually) we will not leave it.**" **Oh no, we are going to take something with us.** What that something is, is all we can take with us, nothing less and nothing more. So we had better be real careful now to see that we take something that will make us right before God. So, then, what will we take with us? **We will take our character, brother, that is what we will take with us. Now what kind of character will you take with you? Will it be like His Whose character was molded by suffering in the fiery furnace of affliction (*Psalm 34:19*), or will it be the softness of this character-less Laodicean people?** It is up to each one of us, for in that day every man will bear his own burden (*Matt. 6:33-34*). [8]

There is absolutely no other way in which to gain patience. **It has to come by the trial of our faith.** *Romans 5:3, "Tribulation worketh patience."* How highly God regards this outworking of our patience is seen in *James 1:4, "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire lacking nothing."* **God's will for us is Perfection. And that perfection is patience--waiting on God and waiting for God (*Psalm 62:1-2,5-6*). This is the process of character development.** [9]

You might have the name of church, might have the name of Branham Tabernacle, or Methodist, or whatever church you go. That isn't it, friends. See, it's something different; **it's your character; that's what God's looking at.** You might be Methodist; you might be Baptist; you might be Presbyterian. It's not that. **It's character that God looks at, not just earthly character, but Holy Spirit character.** [10]

And when I'm born of the Spirit of God, **I am a part of God,** that's all; I am identified with Him, see, that He is my Father. **Then my life should reflect Him; as my life reflects my earthly father in the image that he was in.** They say I look a whole lot like my father, so then therefore it's His image reflected in me. And your father is reflected in you, and your parents. **And, so, God our Father is reflected in us when we're born and conformed here to His image (*Rom. 12:1-2; John 3:3-8*).** [11]

We are the children of God, we know, and we are sons and daughters of the King. **Let our character reflect His Presence, no matter how rough it gets.** [12]

Now, the Holy Spirit will not misbehave itself in one person, and behave itself in another. It'll make each person come into Its character, because **it's a Spirit that leads you** (*Rom. 8:14*). It makes you subject to Its nature. You don't bring It subject to your nature; **It makes you subject to Its nature.** And the Holy Spirit makes you live and love to do it. **Oh, how you love to give up the things of the world, when the Holy Spirit comes in.** How it cleanses you and washes you (*I John 3:3*), and puts a desire in you to follow Him, and a thirst, and a hunger for more of it, just bathing yourself. He brings realities. [13]

Reference:

- [1] "Identification" (63-0123), par. 40-42, 58, 70, 106-118
- [2] "Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy" (65-1206), par. 118
- [3] "Identification" (64-0216), par. 80-85
- [4] "Marriage And Divorce" (65-0221M), par. 131
- [5] "Ashamed" (65-0711), par. 48
- [6] "The Choosing of a Bride" (65-0429E), par. 79-82, 178-185
- [7] "Smyrnaean Church Age", CAB pg. 117
- [8] "Laodicean Church Age", CAB pg. 351
- [9] "Thyatirean Church Age", CAB pg. 224
- [10] "The Sudden, Secret Going Away of the Church" (58-1012), par. E-43
- [11] "Shalom" (64-0112), par. 11
- [12] "The World Is Falling Apart" (63-1115), par. 160
- [13] "The Unfailing Realities of the Living God" (60-0626), par. 76

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www.biblebelievers.de, Fax: (+49) 72 35 33 06

There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]