

#34 Conformed to the Image of Christ

1 This evening let's go right to brother Branham sermon "Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed" and focus on paragraphs 74 and 75 where brother Branham hones in on what it really means to be a Christian. Let's just read for ourselves what he says here.

2 74 But the only way that you can actually be a Christian is for Christ to identify Himself in you. How... We got some a stinger there. I hope everybody on the tape gets that too. See, see? You say, "I'm Pentecostal." That don't mean a thing. It's Christ identified in you; that's when He has recognized you.

3 75 Say, "I spoke with tongues." Devils does, too. "I shouted." The Mohammedans, Buddhas, and everything shouts. The Indians scream at the snake dance. See? Sure. They all do. Cults, clans and everything else scream and holler. They holler and shout at a baseball game. But when Christ is identified in you, identifying Himself, then you are Christ-like; which the word Christian means to be Christ-like. There's your identification. All right. Now... And since He is our identification, then we should be identified with Him by living for Him.

4 Now, last Sunday we examined what it means to be a Christian and I read from Images of Christ 59-0525 P:39 where brother Branham said "Church membership is all right. I have nothing against it, or any of those things. But, brother, to be a Christian means to be conformed to the image of Christ. We want to be living images, not pack an image, but be an image of the Lord Jesus.

5 Therefore tonight as we continue with our examination of paragraphs 74 and 75 where brother Branham places his focus on what it means to be a Christian, and he says pp. 75 But when Christ is identified in you, identifying Himself, then you are Christ-like; which the word Christian means to be Christ-like. There's your identification.

6 Leadership 65-1207 P:113 Now, just examine yourself by the Word, by the Message. Examine what a real Christian should be: rugged, loving, not one of this modern Christianity. Why, it's soft, flexible, half dead, rotten, interbred. See? It's not the real Christianity; live any kind of a way, and belong to church. Don't you want that sweet fellowship with Christ, the Holy Spirit, that you're, the conformity of your own heart to the Word?

7 Now, tonight I want to talk about this conformity to Christ or as brother Branham said in leadership, to be a Christian means to be conformed to the image of Christ.

8 And the reason I want to examine this is because in Romans 8 we are told that we are ordained to be conformed to the image of Christ. who is the First Born Son in a vast family of brothers.

9 The Masterpiece 64-0705 108 brother Branham said, Christ come the Masterpiece to fulfill that. (and he was speaking of how Christ came to fulfill the old testament.) Now His Bride will fulfill everything that's in the New Testament. Another Masterpiece is in making.

10 Now, what does this mean to be conformed to the image of the first born son. Well, in order to understand what this means, we need to understand what the word conformed means? The Word conformed was translated from the Greek word *summorphos* which simply means, fashioned like unto. And the English Word conformed means: To correspond in form or character; to be similar. 2. To act or be in accord or agreement ; to comply.

11 So you see, it does not mean to look like in your stature, or physical makeup, but rather it suggests in actions, and in your character to be similar. Now, when we take into consideration that most quotes of William Branham when speaking about John 14:12 he does not talk so much about the supernatural as he does about the way Jesus acted, the way he talked, the life he lived, and character he had, being in you.

12 From his sermon, Messiah the 61-0117 P:62 Brother Branham said, "They look like him. They act like him. They are his flesh, his blood, his spirit. Amen. That's the way God's church is, His Eaglets, His Messiahettes. They look like Him; they act like Him; they preach like Him; they do the works that He did. "The things that I do shall he also. More than this shall he do, 'cause I go to the Father." Amen. "These signs shall follow My eaglets." Amen "They'll do just as I do. If My Spirit's in them, then they'll do the works that I do. If they don't do the works I do, it's because that My Spirit's not in them."

13 Again from God in His people 50-0227 P:22 brother Branham said, "Now, if I told you I was John Dillinger, or the spirit of John Dillinger was on me, you'd look for me to have guns, act like John Dillinger. If I told you I was an artist, the spirit of a great artist was on me, you'd expect me to paint the pictures of an artist. Is that right? If I told you I was an expert mechanic, and the mechanic's spirit was on me, you'd expect me to know what was wrong with your car. If I said to you that I was born of the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Jesus Christ was on me, you'd expect me to do what He did, act like He did. That's His Spirit working through a human being."

14 So you see the spirit of anything will make you act like the nature of that spirit, whether it be the spirit of an artist, a bank robber, a mechanic, or Christ. Now, I certainly do not understand what is so difficult for preachers and whole churches to see that. And that is what John 14:12 is all about. It's not about going out and trying to produce something on your own. It's about dying to self that Christ might live your life for you.

15 From his sermon Balm in Gilead 59-1124 P:23 brother Branham said, "Now, we take a grain of corn, put it in the ground. It may be a pretty grain of corn, all polished up, looks real nice. But as long as it remains in that condition, that's all it'll ever be, a pretty grain of corn. Sometimes we join church, lot of pretty things in it, and so forth. Maybe we try to pretty ourself up to go to church, get a new something another to wear to church. Is that all church means to you? Then I'm persuaded you need a new birth. It's exactly right. That grain of corn will never produce any new life until the old grain rots away from it. And a person at the altar can't get down there, and kneel down, and get up, and say, "Well, I've got new birth." You have to stay there until all of your thoughts of your own self and all your worldly things has rotted away from you: dead, and rotten, and gone from you. Then new birth takes place. Oh, you might slobber and jabber, and slobber like a horse eating clover. But you'll come up from there in a new condition with a new birth, and something in you that's alive, and made you something different than what you was. When new birth comes in, it cannot come until there's a death first. And people don't want to die. They don't want the simple leadings of the Holy Spirit. They want to take their own thinking of it. You can't think your thoughts. You got to think His thoughts. "Let the mind that was in Christ be in you." Amen. He thinks God's thoughts, brings God's blessings, God's power to you. And it'll make a mess out of you, as far as the world is concerned, but it'll bring new life. It'll bring resurrecting life. It'll bring new thoughts. It'll bring a new person. It'll bring a new faith. It'll bring you from death unto life.

16 But that is the problem we have in the churches. Men don't want to die to self, they like who they are and the position they have attained. But God will not accept what you got to offer him. He will only accept the life of His son. So if that Life is in you then God will accept you. But if you have not died to self, that Life will never enter into you and take over because you are in the way. And with no Christ Life you are none of His, that is what the Bible tells us.

17 Romans Chapter 8:5 For they that are after self do mind the things of self; but they that are after the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded or self absorbed is death; but to be spiritually

minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind (the mind that is focused on self) is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are living for self cannot please God. 9 But ye are not self focused, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

18 Position in Christ 60-0522M P:79 What am I talking about? Hear It, Branham Tabernacle. You've had your chance. When a man once is anointed with the Holy Ghost, to be adopted into the family of God, to be positionally placed by the Father, and set into a service out here, into his purpose of life, or what God has called him for, his walk must be holy, holy, holy unto the Lord.

19 But go into just about any church and usually you will see the sisters all decked out like they are going to a fashion show, instead of coming to God's house. So who are you trying to impress with your body that's worth 80 cents in chemicals. In fact brother Branham said if go to church to be seen like that you need to be born again.

20 But if we are born of His spirit Brother Branham said in his sermon, "As the eagle stirs her nest 61-0122 P:61, "they look just like Him, they believe the same thing He does. They look like Him. Yes, sir. They're made like Him. They're built like Him, and He knows they're genuine eagles. Oh, my. That's what God wants, a genuine Messiahette. Yes. He is Messiah. "Messiah" is "the Anointed One." And we are His children, which have a lesser anointing. So we're... As Jehovah Eagle is, great Eagle, and we're eaglets; He's Messiah, and we with the same anointing are Messiahettes. Amen. Anointed, "Messiah" means "the Anointed One." Are you anointed? Amen. What with? The same Spirit that He was anointed with. We have it in measure; He has It without measure. He was God manifest in the flesh, and we're sons of God, parts of Him, come on. Yes, sir. "The very works that I do shall you do also."

21 Now, then it comes down to this: What then is the expression of our lives if we are born of His Spirit? You know Romans 8:19 says, "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God."

22 Now, this verse in itself can not be understood without first reading the verse before it. Romans 8: 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

23 Paul goes on to say in the next verse, For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. So this manifestation of the sons of God has to do with the glory of God which is the doxa of God being revealed in us. And we know this word doxa means the opinion assessment or judgment of God. Thus "the manifestation of the sons of God" has to do with this "Glory" which was in Christ coming into, or being revealed in the Sons of God. In other words, the very mind of God coming into the Sons of God.

24 Now, here is how I always answer this question concerning the manifestation of the sons of God. The want to know what is this manifestation? Because many people have their own ideas of what it is and some believe it will be the sons of God doing super duper feats of supernatural and whatever more. But I always ask them this question.

25 In order to understand sons of God we must understand the Son of God. Then in order to understand what the manifestation of the sons of God is to be, we must ask the question, "What was the manifestation of the Son of God? Did He manifest His Son-ship by doing miracles and supernatural exploits? Or did he manifest Himself to be God's Only begotten Son in another way? What did He do to manifest that He was God's Son?"

26 Was it signs and wonders? No, that can't be it, because Jesus himself told us Matthew 7: 22 Many will say

to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

27 So it is not the ability to prophesy, and it is not the ability to do wonderful works which are miracles and such, and it is not the ability to cast out devils. Then what did the Son of God do to manifest Himself to be the Son of God?

28 Hebrews 5: 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; God required from His Son obedience before he would adopt that son as His own Son.

29 From the sermon Patriarch Abraham the 64-0207 P:2 Brother Branham said, What a promise because of obedience. Obedience is what God wants. It was once said, "Obedience is better than sacrifice." To obey the Lord is better than any sacrifice that you could do.

30 And what did God require more than anything else in a son? Obedience. Jesus manifested complete obedience to the Father.

31 John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

32 John 5: 30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

33 In fact Jesus said in John 4: 34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. My meat is to do the will of Him, My father that sent me. My meat. My very nourishment, my source of energy is to do the will of my father. Here is a man that lived to be obedient to his Father. That is the commandment of all children, to obey their father and mother.

34 Colossians 3: 20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

35 Ephesians 6: 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) And what does it mean to honour thy Father and Mother? The Word honour means to fix a high value. Therefore what they tell you to do should be regarded as very valuable information. Most parents don't tell their children to do or not do things just because they like to give that Child a hard time. That sort of person would be sick mentally. But most parents want the best for their children even though the children think they know best. But that parent has the best intentions for their children and give them advice based on their years of experience, and accrued knowledge. And children are promise that if they listen to their parents advice they will live long.

36 Deuteronomy 5: 16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

37 Exodus 20: 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

38 Therefore I can say with scriptural assurance that obedience is the only sure manifestation that a child is truly a son of God. Just look at the evidence in the Son of God. Look at what he said is evidence that he loved His Father.

39 John 14: 31 But that the world may know that I love the Father; as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do.

40 John 12: 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

41 So you see that Jesus did nothing, and said nothing until god showed him what to do and what to say.

42 Hear ye Him 57-0519A P:40 Now, watch. God never did anything 'less He asked man to do, but what He did Himself. His Son, when He was born here on earth, He was an obedient Son. Every step was for the Father. Everything He done was to glorify God. And we seen God in Christ. Is that right? "No man has seen the Father at any time, but the only begotten of the Son has declared Him." The very move, the very action, everything that Christ did was God working in Him. You get it now? Now, watch what takes place. Then God takes His Son after a long life, just before Calvary, and He taken Him up on a high mountain in a public place. He brought the heavenly witnesses down. He brought the earthly witnesses up. And there God took His Son, and when they looked up, they saw a cloud that overshadowed them. And Jesus' raiment shined like the sun in the midst of the day. What was it? God put a robe on Him, just like the old adoption said. He robed Him in a glorified condition. No wonder He said, "All powers in heavens and earth is given to My hands." He robed Him and He placed Him. And then He said, "This is My beloved Son; hear ye Him." Then He had the powers of heavens and earth was given unto His hands.

43 Therefore the most important attribute a son can manifest is his obedience to his Father.

44 Super sign 59-1227M P:49 Someone, as I have said before, wants to make Him a little short God. He was man; God was using a man. God was using a flesh that He created Himself in order to create through Him and to "Bring through Him many sons," says the Scripture, "through that obedient Son. Through one son all fell; through an obedient Son all shall live that believe." God with us, a sign, said that would be a sign. Jesus so loved to refer to Himself as Son of man, man Himself, just a man, "I am nothing; the Son can do nothing in Himself." But it's the Father was in Him, the Immanuel, that God, the baby, God, Jehovah God, that little baby cried, that was Jehovah. Did you see it? God living in a baby. God living in a teenage. What type of a teenager was He? He set the example. When He was lost by His father and His mother, they looked about to find Him, and they found Him in the temple, What did He say, as a teenager? "Know you not? Wist thou not that I must be about My Father's business?" Example for teenagers.

45 Therefore in the Old Testament, in order to adopt or place your child as a true son and therefore your heir, the only evidence necessary to the father in order to adopt his child and place Him as a son was that the son was to be obedient and about his father's business. In the message Hear Ye Him, brother Branham talks about the Old Testament tradition of adoption and said, ...

46 Hear ye Him 57-0807 P:25 Now, if that boy is no good, yet he's a son; he's never nothing but a son because he's born a son. But if he is not obedient and the right kind of a son, he just continues a son on out without any reward. But if that is an obedient son according to the Scriptures, then there is an adoption of that son, or the placing of that son. And then after he gets a certain age, he's taken out into a public place. And there there's the great ceremony made, out before the public. And this son is set up on a high place and there is a ceremony of adoption. Think of it now. The father adopts his own son into his family. And then after that, that son's name's just as good on a check as his dad's. It's a public ceremony, and they're all out there, and they see this father positionally place that son.

47 Hear ye Him 59-0424E P:40 But then what if the son still won't obey. That son, though he is a son... We can't say that he's not a son, but he will never have any inheritance. That father says that he won't listen: "He won't obey; I can't put trust in him; I'll just have to let him go. He's always a son." Now, if you're a born of the Spirit of God... I have to stay with that, because you're a son of God. But if you... You lose all the glory. Then what if this son is a good son, an obedient son. Oh, how he loves the father. How the tutor would like to say, "Oh, dad, I'll tell you what. You know that boy of yours, he's a chip off the old block. I'm telling you; he's just about your business just as... Why, he take care of it as good as you can right now." How the father swells up. "Oh, sure, that's my boy." That's the way I want Him to think about us. That's the way we want to follow the instructions of this Word, live by It, preach by It, die by It. That's what God wants us to do.

48 So you see obedience is the key to manifesting as a true son, and an heir of the father. For let's face it, what good does being a son do for you if you are not adopted and acknowledged by the Father that you are a son and given inheritance from the father.

49 Therefore the apostle Peter said in 1 Peter 1: 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

50 And in 2 Corinthians 10: 5 The Apostle Paul said, Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

51 And again the Apostle Paul said in, Romans 6: 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

52 Romans 5: 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

53 Now, this takes us back to the Masterpiece and we pick up the next paragraph where brother Branham says, THE MASTERPIECE 64-0705 109 As it taken Him four thousand years to make this Masterpiece,(He's talking about Jesus here) now He's been for nearly two thousand years making another Masterpiece: a Bride for Christ, another Masterpiece.

54 So we hear him speak of God taking four thousand years to bring forth his first Masterpiece, and that was Jesus His only begotten Obedient Son, and now it is taking God only two thousand years to bring forth another Masterpiece which is being fashioned into the very image of the Eldest Son. That is what Paul taught us in Hebrews first and then in Romans chapter 8.

55 Notice in Hebrews 1 Paul tells us how that Christ came forth in the image of God. Hebrews 1: 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

56 Now, notice that Jesus came forth in the image of God but it took God four thousand years to bring Him forth in His image. But now we see in Romans 8: 29 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.

57 Jesus brought forth in the Image of God and we are conformed into the image of The Son of God, the eldest brother in a vast family of brethren.

In closing we examined paragraphs 74 tonight where brother Branham said, "But the only way that you can

actually be a Christian is for Christ to identify Himself in you.

58 And then he said in pp. 75 But when Christ is identified in you, identifying Himself, then you are Christ-like; which the word Christian means to be Christ-like. There's your identification. All right. Now... And since He is our identification, then we should be identified with Him by living for Him.

59 And finally from Images of Christ 59-0525 P:39we heard brother Branham say, "Church membership is all right. I have nothing against it, or any of those things. But, brother, to be a Christian means to be conformed to the image of Christ. We want to be living images, not pack an image, but be an image of the Lord Jesus.

60 Let us pray....