

It’s Morphin Time!
Galatians 4:19

Intro: Back in about 1993 a TV show hit the air it as called *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. *Power Rangers* began broadcasting as part of the Fox Kids group of programs that aired on the Fox network. The show was an unlikely hit – originally produced on a very low budget in Japan, then badly dubbed into English.

The key to the show’s appeal was the characters’ ability to “morph.” Ordinary normal kids who, when they needed power would transform themselves into mighty martial arts heroes. Here is their rallying cry in those moments when they were in greatest need **[play video]**. Six year-olds, and as you saw in the video even some young adults started “morphamania.” The franchise is still in on TV today.

From that time on the word “morph” found its way into the modern English lexicon. There are tons of computer programs out that you can buy to “morph” a picture.

It is this word morph that we are going to look at today; you see, when Jesus called us to be followers of Him and later told us to make disciples what He was essentially asking was for us to Morph into His image. I our text today Paul yearns for the day when Galatian Christians are morphed into Christ...stand as we read...

[Read Galatians 4:19/Pray/Dismiss Jr. Church] I would say that what this world needs is a good dose of Jesus so **It’s Morphin Time!**

Of course, it is not just six year olds and some young adults who want to morph. The desire for transformation lies deep in every human heart. This is why people enter therapy, join health clubs, get into recovery groups, read self-help books, attend motivational seminars, and make New Year’s resolutions. The possibility of transformation is the essence of hope. Psychologist Aaron Beck

says that the single belief most toxic to relationships is the belief that the other person cannot change.

The idea of transformation or “morphing” is at the heart of what we call Spiritual Growth and it is the ultimate goal of true discipleship. Discipleship is the process by which we are transformed from who we are to whom Christ desires for us to be.

The word is found only 7 times in the New Testament and in those 7 uses we find what God intends for us; what He expects **True Followers of Jesus Christ to become.**

What is it that True Followers are Expected to become? We Are Expected To Become...

- I. **Christ Like In Our Character** Gal 4:19
 - A. Here the word Paul uses is ‘*morphoo*’
 1. It is used as a verb
 2. It means ‘ *to give form or shape to, to form*’
 3. Paul’s use of ‘*morphoo*’ carries the idea of essential form rather than outward shape, and therefore refers to Christ-like character.
 - B. Christ-likeness is the goal of the believer’s life.
 1. **“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him”** he exhorted the church at Colossae (Col. 2:6)
 2. God has predestined believers **“to become conformed to the image of His Son”** (Rom. 8:29)
 3. The Father sent the Son to earth not only to die that men might be saved but also to live as the divine example for those who are saved.
 4. Paul wanted each of his children to reach spiritual maturity in the faith.
 5. They would do so by having their Characters morphed in the Likeness of Christ
 - C. This Character is formed over time however
 1. “Formed in you” refers to a mother carrying an embryo until it is developed enough to be born.

2. God desires for Christ to live in and through each believer.
 3. Paul said that Christ takes form in us.
 4. As a Christian becomes conformed and transformed (Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 3:18) in relation to Christ, Christ’s attitudes and character are “formed” in him or her
 5. We will actually take on the very character and mind of Christ that’s why Paul could say:
“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name” (Phil 2:5-9)
- D. We become like Christ as we grow
1. Paul said to the Galatian Christians that they – like you and I – are in a kind of spiritual gestation process
 2. That’s where many of us are still in that gestation process
- E. When this morphing happens, I don’t just do the things Jesus would have done; I find myself wanting to do them.
1. They appeal to me.
 2. They make sense.
 3. I don’t just go around trying to do right things; I become the right sort of person.
 - a) Ben Franklin said that the definition of Insanity was doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.
 - b) The Christina who keeps trying but always falls and has to start over is the one who keeps doing the same things over and over but expecting different results – stop trying and start letting the Character of Christ form in you.

4. The problem is we are not growing that Spirit – it is still in the embryonic state because we “...**are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat**” (Heb5:12).
5. This change takes place only as we willingly submit ourselves to the Holy Spirits leadership
6. And commit ourselves to following His leadership
7. This expression describes the Christian life as a kind of reincarnation of Christ in a believer’s life.

II. **Christ Like In Our Outward Personality Romans 12:2**

- A. The next use of the word is the word “*metamorphoo*” (*met-am-or-fo’-o*)
 1. It means “*to fashion alike, that is, conform to the same pattern (figuratively):—conform to, fashion self according to; to conform one’s self (i.e. one’s mind and character) to another’s pattern, (fashion one’s self according to)*”
 2. We get our English word *metamorphosis* from it
 3. It means a change in outward appearance and is the term from
 4. Matthew used the same word in describing Jesus’ transfiguration - when “He was transfigured [*metamorphothee*] before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light” (Matt17:2)
 5. We know that there was a noticeable difference in His appearance
- B. **The new birth, the new mind, the new (*kainos*) man.**
 1. Christ’s inner divine nature and glory were, for a brief time and to a limited degree, manifested outwardly.
 2. Our inner redeemed nature also is to be manifested outwardly, but as completely and continually as possible, in our daily living
 3. Like the preceding verb (**be conformed**), **be transformed** is a passive imperative.
 - a) What that means is that positively, we are commanded to allow ourselves to be changed outwardly into conformity to our redeemed inner natures.

- b) **“We all,”** Paul assured the Corinthians believers, **“with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit”** (2 Cor. 3:18).
- c) Although we are to aspire to this outward change, it can be accomplished only by the Holy Spirit working in us, by our being “filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18).
- 4. The Holy Spirit achieves this transformation **by the renewing of the mind**, an essential and repeated New Testament theme.
- 5. The outward transformation is effected by an inner change in the mind, and the Spirit’s means of transforming our minds is the Word.
 - a) David testified, **“Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee”** (Ps. 119:11).
 - b) God’s own Word is the instrument His own Holy Spirit uses to renew our minds, which, in turn, He uses to transform our living.

III. Christ Like In Our Journey Rom 8:29

- A. The word used here is *“summorphos”* (*soom-mor-fos*)
 - 1. It means *“having the same form as another, similar, conformed to”*
 - 2. (**Don’t read just know** an adjective it is used to describe, identify, or quantify something or someone)
 - 3. Used here with the Greek word *“eikōn”* (*i-kone*)
 - 4. The word *“eikōn”* is used to refer to Christ –
 - 5. We have both *morphē* and *eikōn* to express the gradual change in us till we acquire the likeness of Christ the Son of God so that we ourselves shall ultimately have the family likeness of sons of God
- B. This speaks of the process of becoming like Christ.
 - 1. Verse 28 is important to understanding this part of the morphin process.
 - 2. Verse 28 reminds us that we never need to faint in times of suffering and trial because we knows that God is at work in the world

- C. And that God has a plan and that plan has two purposes:
 - 1. Our good
 - 2. His glory.
 - 3. Ultimately, He will make us like Jesus Christ!
 - 4. Best of all, God’s plan is going to succeed!
- D. Since the verse says that God did predestinate us that means that it is a done deal – this is our blessed assurance
 - 1. This doesn’t mean we might be like Christ
 - 2. Or that if we work real hard at it someday we may come close to being like Christ
 - 3. No this says that God “appoint beforehand” (what the word predestinate means).
- E. 1 John 3:2 tells us that **“...now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”**
- F. Romans 8:17 says that, **“...if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together**
- G. Why is this our blessed assurance?
 - 1. Because God’s eternal plan is for us to be conformed into the image of his son
 - 2. As His Son is Glorified so will we someday be glorified with Him
- H. But we must take the Journey –
 - 1. Jesus said **“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”** (Mat 16:24)
 - 2. That Journey will not be an easy one
- I. Paul used this same Greek word (“*summorphos*”) two other places in his writings and they may help us understand better that Journey we will be on
 - 1. In Phil 3:10 Paul uses this word 2X says, **“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death”**
 - a) There can be no doubt that Paul means to say that he esteemed it so desirable to be just like

- Christ, that he would regard it as an honor to die in the same manner.
- b) He would rejoice to go with him to the cross, and to pass through the circumstances of scorn and pain which attended such a death
 - c) “The agony of Gethsemane, not less than the agony of Calvary, will be reproduced however faintly in the faithful servant of Christ” (Lightfoot).
2. In Phil 3:21 Paul uses the same word 2X
- a) Paul says that Jesus Christ ***“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*”**
 - b) In this we see that the *metamorphosis* will be complete.
 - c) This is when the process of Morphing will be finalized and no more Morphing Time will be needed
- J. But until then we need make every day ***“Morphing Time”***

Conclusion: When this morphing happens, I don’t just do the things Jesus would have done; I find myself wanting to do them. They appeal to me. They make sense. I don’t just go around trying to do right things; I become the right sort of person.

These are some bold statements. Ordinary people can receive power for extraordinary change. It’s ***Morphing Time***, Paul tells us.

The primary goal of Spiritual growth is human transformation. It is not making sure people know where they’re going after they die, or helping them have a richer interior life, or seeing that they have lots of information about the Bible, although these can be good things. Let’s put first things first. The first goal of spiritual growth is the transformation of the human race; in other words ***It’s Morphing Time.***

The question I will ask today is, ***Is It Morphing Time for you?*** Do you have a **Christ Like Character?** Are you **Christ Like In You Personality?** Are you looking forward to a **Christ Like Journey?**

If not then let's work on