

# Good News From Chardon

November 8, 2020  
Issue 45



128 Maple Ave. 440-286-5505

## Imitation vs. Transformation

By Joe Chesser

You may not have read it, but I know you have heard of it. The book *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* has sold over 50,000,000 copies. It's one of the best-selling books of all time. More recently the concept of WWJD was popularized with wristbands, t-shirts and jewelry. It's an awesome concept. In all situations, ask yourself "what would Jesus do?" and act on it. After all, we all want to imitate Jesus in everything we do ... right? Well, yes and no.

An article written by John Coe challenged me to think more deeply about this (the article: *Resisting the Temptation of Moral Formation*). While imitating Jesus is quite good, there can also be something about it that can be quite wrong. You see, character imitation that does not come from a transformed heart is not fully what Jesus came to produce in his disciples. Behavioral modification because that's what Jesus did is only "me" choosing externally to be conformed to his actions. So, in every situation that arises I would need to stop and think, "What would Jesus do?" Then "I" would have to determine what Jesus would do in that situation, and then decide if "I" would act like him.

There is something better. It's called transformation (Romans 12.2). So, what's the difference between the two? Imitation makes decisions with the head. For example, I know Jesus was compassionate, so my head tells me I need to be compassionate. One flaw is that I can't do everything Jesus did. Another is that I can act with compassion without being compassionate at all. Imitation does not require my heart to be in it. In fact, my heart may even oppose the action my head says is the right thing to do. Perhaps that's one reason why there is sometimes conflict within us: my heart's not in the things I know I should be doing.

But when my heart is transformed, things are different. I don't want to just act like Jesus, I want to be like Jesus. I want my transformed heart to guide my head to act like him. I not only want to be compassionate like he was, I also want to be compassionate why he was. I want to love people so much that whenever I see a need for compassion, I won't have to ask, "What would Jesus do?", I'll just do it ... like the Good Samaritan Jesus told us about (Luke 10). That's not to say that the head is not engaged. It is. It is a necessary part of being like Jesus. In fact, a renewed mind is a necessary step in a transformed heart (Romans 12.2). But now my head and my heart are acting in unity. There'll be no internal conflict when my transformed heart guides my head into acting like Jesus.

So now, when I ask WWJD, it will be because I have Jesus in my heart and want to be like him in every way possible. It will not be a burden to act like him or to keep his commandments because our hearts are filled with his love (John 14.15; 1 John 5.3). Turmoil and guilt are replaced with joy and peace. The need for perfection is eliminated when our transformed hearts are walking in the light with Jesus (1 John 1.7).

Imitation or transformation? Which have you been choosing?  
Joe Chesser preaches for the church of Christ, Fruitland, MO

### Schedule of Services:

**Greeting:** Tom

**Song Leader:** Mark

**Opening Hymn:**

202—Anywhere is Home

**Opening Prayer:** Dale

**Hymn:**

255—O To Be Like Thee

**Scripture Reading:** Ryan

Romans 12:1-8

**Hymn:**

312—From The Garden to the Cross

**Lord's Supper:** Ray

**Hymn:**

207—The Lily of the Valley

**Sermon:** Tom

**Invitation Hymn:**

623—Why Do You Wait

**Closing Hymn:**

425—Beyond the Sunset

**Closing Prayer:** Larry

**PRAYER LIST**

- \*Ron and Bonnie and their family. Several of their extended family has COVID 19.
- \*Margaret and Albert.
- \*Wanda and her family.
- \*Kathy and her friends.
- \*Zarna Several members of her family in India have the virus.
- \*Larry and Ruth.
- \*Pat and Ron and their daughters.
- \*Juanita’s sister Betty.
- \*Mary and her family.
- \*Robert and Sara
- \*Juanita and her family
- \*Ray and Barbara
- \*Dale and his family.
- \*Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- \*Myron & Carole
- \*Mark and his family.

**CALENDAR**

- Nov. 8—Worship 11 am  
Speaker: Tom
- Nov. 8—Bible Study 6 pm  
on-line with Dale
- Nov. 8—(b.) Debbie
- Nov. 10—(b.) Ben
- Nov. 11—(b.) Danielle
- Nov. 11—(b.) Pat
- Nov. 15—Worship 11 am  
Speaker: Tom
- Nov. 15—Bible Study 6 pm  
on-line with Dale
- Nov. 16—(b.) Kathy
- Nov. 19—(b.) Connor
- Nov. 19—(b.) Dillion
- Nov. 22—Worship 11 am  
Speaker: Tom

# Serve God

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:1-8

ACCEPTABLE	ACCORDING	ANOTHER	BESEECH
BRETHREN	CHEERFULNESS	CHRIST	CONFORMED
DIFFERING	DILIGENCE	EVERYONE	EXHORTATION
FUNCTION	HIMSELF	INDIVIDUALLY	LIBERALITY
MEASURE	MEMBERS	MERCIES	MINISTERING
PERFECT	PRESENT	PROPHECY	PROPORTION
REASONABLE	RENEWING	SACRIFICE	SERVICE
SOBERLY	THEREFORE	TRANSFORMED	

T D E G H O D N O I T C N U F C N N  
R L N N I O T I B S G E C O O N O F  
A I O I M O R I F N O M E N D N I T  
N B Y W S G O N I F S B F T E H T I  
S E R E E S N D E E E O E R W Y R N  
F R E N L O R I R R R R H R C R O M  
O A V E F O L V R M O T I E L I P E  
R L E R C E I I E E E F H N T Y O R  
M I D C B C R D U R T P E A G T R C  
E T A B E E T U B R O S T R A N P I  
D Y S F O R M A S R E R I D E B Y E  
R E H T O N A L P A O T H N E H R S  
M E M B E R S L E H E C H R I S T N  
B E S E E C H Y X E W M I N G M O F  
Y E L B A T P E C C A T C E F R E P  
O U C H E E R F U L N E S S R M I N  
P R E S E N T R E A S O N A B L E D  
E C N E G I L I D E C I F I R C A S

Hidden Message: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer to Puzzle do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

**As Will Rogers wisely said: “Ignorance ain’t our problem. It’s what we ‘know’ that ain’t true.”**

**SUNDAY: Worship — 11:00 am; Bible Study — 6:00 pm (on Zoom);**  
**Website: [Chardonchurchofchrist.org](http://Chardonchurchofchrist.org)**  
**E-mail: [church\\_of\\_Christ@roadrunner.com](mailto:church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com)**  
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