

# THE EVOLVING CHURCH

**By: Phillip Hayes**

*"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" [2Corinthians 3:18].*

Recently, someone said to me, "You have really changed". I don't know if the individual was concerned about my teaching having changed or if it was intended to be a compliment. I don't remember saying anything but I did wonder what he had meant. After some thought I decided to take it as a compliment as I knew I had changed considerably over the years. Also, I thank God for the changes He has made in my life and ministry. The past forty-five years serving God has been awesome.

I feel I would be much closer to obtaining the prize of the high calling had I avoided some of the pitfalls of religion that I unintentionally fell into in my early years.

According to our opening verse and many other scriptures, we are supposed to change. As a matter of fact, if we are not changing, we are not growing.

Some years back I remember a dear brother in the Lord that was referred to as "Brother Knot in a Log". The reason he was called that is because he never changed; he was like a knot in a log. In some ways this is good, but spiritually speaking it is bad.

Some might say, "I've believed the same doctrine for forty years". That is fine if the doctrine is correct, but what if the doctrine is erroneous?

I am sure the Holy Spirit is guiding all God's children into all Truth. However, you must yield yourself to the Spirit of Truth. Millions have been deceived because they refused the leading of God's Spirit and are enslaved in man-made creeds and denominations.

As it was in the beginning, there are two voices speaking, and there are two ways to go. One voice will lead you to Heaven, the other below. I wonder which road you're traveling.

The Holy Spirit will guide you toward the prize of the high calling. Satan will devise all kinds of teachings and religious activities to prevent you from obtaining the prize.

If there was ever a time the church needs spiritual understanding and direction, it is today. There are so many voices in the land pointing to various ways the church should go that it is sometimes difficult to discern which voice is from God. However, I am convinced we can know the mystery of God's will for each of us if we would depend solely upon the Holy Spirit of Truth.

In the very beginning of creation, God declared the end! *"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."* [Isaiah 46:9-10]

Genesis is not only a book describing the creation but it is a prophetic book. From Genesis we are able to discover what God predetermined for mankind in the end time.

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. [Genesis 1:26-28]*

In Genesis chapter 5 we find the creation of man described this way: *"This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."* [Genesis 5:1-2]

In the day that God created man; Male and female created He them, and called their name Adam.

Most times when we find the word *man* in the Bible, it is referring to mankind. Mankind consists of both male and female. The word Adam actually means mankind.

We have shown you two sets of scriptures describing the creation of man. Now, let's look at the most popular well known accounts.

In Genesis Chapter 2, verse 7 we find the following: *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,*

*and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

But what about the female? Again, the most popular and well known verses are found in Genesis chapter 2, verses eighteen through twenty-three: Verse eighteen, *"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."* Verses twenty-one through twenty-three, *"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."*

I believe every account of the creation of man is exactly right and each account not only happened historically; but each is also prophetic. This account we have just read in chapter two prophetically speaks of a time when a woman will be taken from a man. I believe this is a shadow of the Bride of Christ being taken from the Body of Christ.

The female was already in Adam! God called their name, Adam! The female became Eve after she was taken from Adam. Thus the Bride of Christ is now in the Body of Christ and will soon be taken from the Body.

Remember, we must keep our hearts upon the spiritual precept that God declared the end from the beginning. God determined in the beginning that He would

have a man in His Own Image! He has declared it, and it will come to pass!

We also know the story of the fall of Adam. But there may be some things about Adam that we have missed. First of all Adam was in the very likeness and image of God. He looked just like God! Secondly, Adam had the attributes of God. In the beginning Adam was the supreme ruler, or god of this world. He had dominion over all the earth. He actually named every creature God had created!

When Adam fell, mankind fell. Mankind's link with God was broken. I believe this is when Satan became the god of this world. God had given the earth to man, but man lost it to the devil.

There was no more fellowship with the Creator. But God had a plan to restore lost mankind back to God. There would be a second Adam. This second Adam would not be from the earth. He would be from heaven itself and He would restore mankind back to . . . . *what?*

He would restore lost mankind back to the image of God! He came to restore the Kingdom! He didn't come to restore the kingdom of David or Solomon, but He came to restore the Kingdom of God which God had given to Adam.

The second Adam was none other than our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God who came in the very image and likeness of His Father.

Jesus told Philip, "*When you have seen me, you have seen the Father.*" (John 14:9) Jesus was not speaking of His physical appearance, nor was He saying that He was the Father. In the next two verses our Lord was very plain as to what He was revealing, "*Believest thou not that I am in the*

*Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."* [John 14:10-11] God was IN Christ, reconciling the world unto Him!

Look what Jesus said in the next verse: "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*" [John 14:12] Remember, Jesus begin by answering Philip's question, "*Shew us the Father*" or "Show us God". Jesus told him that when you see Him, you see the Father (God), because the Father was IN Him and He was IN the Father and this was evidenced by the works that He did. In verse twelve, He let His disciples know that the works He did, they would also do, and even greater works! (*The works revealed the Father*). God was not only going to be in Jesus, He was going to be in all His people. In the next few verses of John fourteen and throughout the next several chapters the Lord Jesus began to reveal the mystery of God to them, and let them know that the Comforter was coming whom He called the Spirit of Truth.

I hope you see the plain truth here! Jesus did more than die for our sins! He came to restore us to the very image of God that had been lost when Adam fell! He did not come to reform the Jewish religion. He came to establish a radical new religion that was not written on tables of stones, but on the hearts of believers by His Spirit.

Jesus preached, *"You must be born again!"* You have to become a new creature. A new creation must take place! *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" [2Corinthians 5:17].*

In Paul's epistle to the Colossians he describes Jesus this way: *"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature."* [Colossians 1:15]

Romans 8, verse 29 says we are predestinated to be conformed to the image of the Son of God. In other words, God has predetermined that we (Christ's church) will also be in the same image Jesus is in, and that is the very image of God. This image is a spiritual image, not physical or natural.

Mankind has been restored to the image of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. This is why Paul wrote, *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."* [Galatians 3:28] When one is born again, they become a new creature in Christ Jesus. That new creature is evolving into the expressed image of God!

Our book, "Spirit, Soul and Body" goes into great detail as to what transpires in your life when you experience being born again. It is a free down load on our web site: [www.WOFCI.com](http://www.WOFCI.com). Click Media, then Sermon Articles.

### **"NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE"**

Far too long carnal men and women have taken the writings of Paul and misused them to establish doctrines Paul never intended.

It is estimated that seventy-five percent of the world wide Christian church is comprised of women. In many churches women have been spiritually abused and sometimes humiliated by domineering pastors thinking they were doing God's service. Many of these women are not allowed to participate in their church services. In some cases, they must wear veils or head coverings. I have been in churches where women had to remain totally silent could not as much as raise their hands to worship God.

In some churches women are allowed to sing and sometimes testify, but they are not allowed to read from the Bible or preach. They are told they can prophesy, but they cannot manifest any of the other gifts of the Spirit. This is all very confusing to most women! They wonder, "What is the difference in testifying, preaching, or prophesying"? If we are to take Paul's words literally that women must keep silent in the church, then how can they speak in tongues or prophesy as he has permitted in other passages? Certainly, if a woman can have the gift of tongues she should pray that she might interpret as Paul had instructed in First Corinthians chapter twelve.

Clearly, it makes no sense at all to think that God would not use seventy-five percent of His body! No, we have all been baptized into the same body by the same Spirit. "The hand cannot say to the foot, I have no need of thee". We are many members, but one body!

From the beginning God purposed to have a man in His own image. This Man would neither be male nor female. He called THEIR name Adam, male and female created He them. I believe God was speaking prophetically of the Body



of Christ which would be made up of Bond, Free, Jew, Gentile, Male and Female. One body in the image of God!

The Bible clearly tells us that we are the sons of God. It also tells us that we are the body of Christ. Also, WE ARE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, THE LAMBS WIFE. Well, are we male or female? Quit looking at the scriptures with a carnal mind! Spiritually we are neither male nor female, WE ARE NEW CREATURES!

After the resurrection we will be like the angels and our bodies will be fashioned like His glorious body (See Philippians 3:21). Jesus told the carnal religious Jews that we would be like the angels that neither marry nor are given in marriage (See Matthew 22:30). There is no such thing as a woman angel, or for that matter, a man angel! They have no gender in heaven!

Although we are male and female in the flesh, we have no gender in the spirit. *"There is neither male nor female in the spirit."*

### **THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT**

I stated before that Jesus did not come to reform the Jewish religion. He brought a New Covenant with better promises. The law given to Moses did not bring perfection, but the bringing in of a better hope did. The law was weak and not profitable! I thank God for the Law of the Spirit! *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the*

*law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” [Romans 8:2-4]*

We cannot go back to Jewish traditions, feast days, Sabbaths or the law given to Moses! We must go forward! *We must evolve!*

There are some today that want to bring God’s people back to the same old Jewish traditions and teachings that Jesus delivered them from.

In Paul’s epistle to the Galatians he was very bold in his warning over this question of the law. He told them if righteousness came by the law, then Christ died in vain. They were trying to justify themselves through the keeping of the law.

Some think if they keep the law and the Sabbaths they will be closer to God thus they will then be able to heal the sick and work miracles. But Paul stated to the contrary, *“He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” [Galatians 3:5]*

We should never desire to be under the bondage Christ delivered us from. We CANNOT go back church. We must evolve!

The early church began with the Jews at Pentecost. *“To the Jew first and also to the Greek.”* However, when the Gentiles began to be swept into the kingdom of God, the Apostles and early church leaders did not know what to do with them. The question was, *“Should they also be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses?”*

After the apostles considered this matter at length, they decided to send the following letter to the Gentiles:

*"And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia. Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well."* [Acts 15:23-29]

I believe those that presently desire to go back to the law, should prayerfully consider what the Apostles said about the matter. Please remember these words of the Apostle Paul, *"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."* [Galatians 5:4]

Some have taken this verse found in Jude's exhortation completely out of context, *"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."* [Jude 1:3]

They say, this means the church must go back to the form of religion that the early church had. This is not at all what Jude was referring to! He was talking about the "common salvation" I have been describing to you. Salvation based solely on God's Grace through the Blood Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Sadly these well meaning, but deceived individuals are corrupting millions of God's people.

No, we will not go back to where women must keep silent in our churches although the Holy Ghost is burning in their hearts to bring a word, a revelation, or a miracle to the body of Christ. No, we will not burden our dear sisters to wear head coverings, or instruct them to wear their hair a certain way to satisfy anyone other than their husbands. No, we will not go back to where the women sit on one side of the church, and the men on the other. No, we will not go back to carnal imposed rules and standards that men have created. We will go forward! We will evolve!

There is a spiritual evolution taking place and God is the Author of it! The enemy is resisting this evolution with everything at his disposal, but he will not prevail. *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* [2 Corinthians 3:18] We are being changed! Changed into what? Into the same image and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The definition of evolve is: "to develop gradually". When you give yourself to the Spirit, you evolve gradually day by day! What God has predestinated cannot fail!

Don't be carnal minded! *"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."* [Romans 8:6-7].

Carnal thinking will short circuit the will of God for your life! Your growth will be stunted!

*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. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. [Romans 8:29-30]*

We did not come into the Kingdom of God as full mature sons of God. We were birthed into the Kingdom of God as new born babes. Babies are supposed to evolve into maturity. Grow up!

God has predestinated us to be conformed to the image of Jesus! This is our destiny! We are evolving into the image of Christ.

Not long ago Sister Glenda brought a message to the church in which she explained how a butterfly came to be such a beautiful creature. In her message she brought how the butterfly didn't come into this world a beautiful colorful butterfly, but was first a worm in a cocoon. Then the worm came out of the cocoon, it was an ugly caterpillar. Afterward, it became a beautiful butterfly! She compared this transformation to God's people that are also undergoing a metamorphosis. We are evolving into what God has purposed for us.

Although the transforming stages of a butterfly is a natural process it does demonstrate very clearly what God is doing spiritually for His people.

If you want to go back and crawl into your old cocoon, then go ahead! But don't look for me there! I am going on to be that beautiful new creation that God has ordained me to be.

Your growth in the Lord may seem very slow, but nevertheless we are all being changed into the image God intended from the very beginning. There will be no Bond, Free, Jew Gentile, Male or Female. We shall all be one! God will truly be all and in all.

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