



The potter carefully shapes the clay. His touch is gentle and his knife is sharp. The wheel always spinning, as the potter shapes the clay into a vessel with a special purpose. Just as the potter shapes the clay, so the Lord shapes us.

Romans 8:29 says, He “predestined us to become conformed to the image of His Son.” Our destiny is to become more and more like Jesus. To think like Him, to love like Him, and to act like Him. God is shaping us to look like Jesus and to live for Jesus. That’s what we mean by **IN HIS IMAGE ... FOR HIS MISSION.**

That’s where the IMAGE acrostic helps. It’s a play on the word “image” in Romans 8:29. It paints a portrait of a disciple. It defines what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. “I” stands for intimacy with God, “M” stands for ministry, “A” stands for authentic community, “G” stands for growth, and “E” stands for engaging people with the gospel.

We see these characteristics throughout the New Testament; not as a checklist, but as a way of life. This is what a true disciple looks like. This is what a fully devoted follower of Jesus looks like.

Yet, there is something all of us must admit. We’re not perfect, and we have room to grow. We know we must narrow the gap between what we know and how we live. We must narrow the gap between being convinced of the gospel and being compelled to share the gospel. We must narrow the gap between merely saying we believe in Jesus and fully living for Him.

Therefore, each of us must answer this question. **“IN WHAT AREA DO I NEED TO GROW, AND WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP, TO LOOK LIKE JESUS AND TO LIVE FOR JESUS?”**

The flip side of this paper lists ten characteristics of a fully devoted follower of Jesus. If you want to grow as a Christian, then take some time to work through these IMAGE characteristics. Let the Holy Spirit shine a light on the areas in which you need to grow. And make a commitment to take the next step, to living a wonderful life **IN HIS IMAGE ... FOR HIS MISSION.**



In what area do I need to grow, to look like Jesus and to live for Jesus?	Suggestions of next steps in your journey toward “in His image ... for His mission”
INTIMACY WITH GOD	
being devoted to gathering in worship <i>Colossians 3:16</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make worship a priority and attend church regularly • prepare your heart before you come to meet God • study the characteristics of God to expand your view of God
connecting to God through the word and prayer <i>Psalms 27:8</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read your Bible and pray every day • find a devotional plan, choose a place, and set a time • connect with God throughout your day
MINISTRY	
serving according to your gifts, talents, and passions <i>1 Peter 4:10-11</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ask God for a servant heart, choose to live an others-centered life • attend the SHAPE class to identify your gifts • review the Volunteer Catalog for suggested places to serve • get involved in a ministry or a cause you are passionate about
giving financially to support Christ’s mission <i>Proverbs 3:9</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ask God for a grateful and generous heart • attend the Financial Peace class to better manage your finances • start giving financially to support the mission of the church • consider increasing your percentage giving
AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY	
sharing life with others in mutual care <i>Romans 12:15</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open up to being vulnerable and transparent with others • join a Life Group where you regularly meet with trusted friends • join an Adult Bible Fellowship to get connected in the church
connecting in relationships of spiritual challenge <i>Proverbs 27:17</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listen to the advice of trusted friends or those in your Life Group • invite a friend to be an accountability partner • enter into a mentoring relationship
GROWTH	
knowing and living the word of God <i>Colossians 1:9-10</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend an Adult Bible Fellowship to study the Bible and develop a biblical foundation and biblical convictions • attend other specialized classes to help you grow • be intentional to apply what you are learning
building spiritually strong families <i>Deuteronomy 6:6-9</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead your family by participating and attending church regularly • attend the Marriage Class to invest in the health of your marriage • initiate spiritual conversations with your spouse and your children • develop better relationship skills to know and love your family
ENGAGE	
developing friendships with the hope of sharing the Gospel <i>1 Corinthians 9:22</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get to know your neighbors, co-workers, and classmates • schedule times to get together to develop genuine friendships with non-believers • share your faith story, and ask questions about their story • be ready for the opportunity to share the gospel
partnering in local and global missions <i>Acts 1:8</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn about mission opportunities in our church to expand your global worldview • go on a short-term mission trip • get involved in a mission that interests you