

A DIVINE MAKEOVER 2 Corinthians 5:14-20 (esp. 17)

Introduction

Maury Povich show featuring family members who were desperate to have their wild looking loved ones made over.

- The grandmother who wanted her drag queen grandson to wear men's clothes once again
- The two boys who wanted their mother to stop dressing provocatively
- The husband who wanted his "frumpy" wife to dress up
- The little girl who wanted her mother's wild hair to be tamed
- The young woman who wanted her hippie dad to cut his hair and shave

You can see all kinds on the daytime talk shows.

His name was Shannon. What made him interesting was his looks. His hair was a different color each week, his ears were loaded with earrings, and he wore the big loose grunge style clothing. But the most interesting point of style was his shorts, and he always wore shorts regardless of the weather. What made his shorts so odd was the way he wore them. You see he always wore his shorts backwards. As you could imagine anyone who dressed like that at a Bible College stuck out like a sore thumb. One day a preacher in training couldn't stand it any longer and his judgmental sarcasm got the best of him and he had to make a crack about Shannon's shorts. To his surprise Shannon was ready for that criticism. Shannon turned to him and said, "I'll tell you just like I tell everyone else who asks me why I wear my shorts backwards. I tell them that God turned my life around so fast that my shorts couldn't keep up."

J. Douglas Duty, Jr. writes, "Wouldn't it be great as you got older if you could get new parts? Yes, I know that through the magic of modern medicine you can [get a makeover. You can] have all kind of things **stretched, pulled, pinched, tucked, tweaked, enhanced, suctioned and peeled**. But all that is only a matter of moving pieces and parts around so that no one can see the effects of how badly we have treated our bodies."

God wants to give you more than a makeover – God wants to create a brand new person. God isn't interested in re-decorating. God wants to change you so radically that everyone around you notices a difference – not because you wear your shorts backwards, but because you live life backwards. You live life totally different from the way you used to live it and totally the opposite of the way the rest of the world lives it.

A NEW VIEW OF CHRIST ("we know Him in this way [according to the flesh] no longer")

The person being made over must first have or desire a new view of self

Becoming a new creature is predicated upon a new view of Jesus. No longer do we view Him as a temporal king ruling over a material kingdom and

delivering from earthly foes, but rather as an eternal king over a spiritual kingdom as a result of delivering His subjects from satanic foes.

Before his conversion he had known Christ according to the standards of the men of his time, the Sanhedrin and other Jewish leaders. He had led the persecution against Jesus until Jesus challenged and stopped him (Acts 9:4). That event turned Paul clean round and he no longer knows Christ in the old way.

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During the conversion process, a person's estimation of Jesus changes -- from that of perhaps an oppressive despot or killjoy to that of a gracious friend and forgiving savior. Saul's view of Jesus changed dramatically through the blinding experience on his way to Damascus (Acts 9). His realization of God's grace increased even more following his baptism when he was in Arabia and learned of God's call on his life (Gal. 1:15-17).

When we see Jesus in a new way, we become a new person. Changed are our values, attitudes, behavior, goals, direction, etc.

A NEW YOU ("he is a new creature"; "reconciled to [God] through Christ")

Inside

- Some of the makeovers on TV produced what looked like new people. The changes were dramatic. But merely outward; superficial. The young woman, whose father was transformed from a hippie into a clean-shaven man, said he still talked the same way. He did appear, however, to conduct himself differently.
- The new creature in Christ is changed from the inside. Affects every part of existence.
- a new creation in a moral sense

Out

- More than **reformation** is in view. We're talking a complete **transformation** (metamorphosis) that begins by the renewing of one's mind (Rom. 12:1-2) and manifests itself in conduct, attitude, speech, etc. (Eph. 4:17-5:5) **lay aside the old self, be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self**
 - RE-CREATION there is a change produced in the renewed heart of man that is equivalent to the act of creation, and that bears a strong resemblance to it—a change, so to speak, as if the man was made over again, and had become new.
(from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by BibleSoft)
 - Though the new man be created of God, yet we must put it on (Eph 4:24), and be pressing forward towards perfection.
(from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

➤ Col 3:5-10

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him NASU

A NEW FUTURE (“[He] gave us the ministry of reconciliation”; “we are ambassadors for Christ”)

- Ministry (word) of reconciliation
 - No greater word of hope and peace and promise
 - No greater privilege or higher honor
- Ambassador for Christ, Who makes His appeal through us
 - How desperate are we that our acquaintances be made over?
 - The result is that we are made ambassadors for Christ, calling men to reconciliation. We aren't like an apologetic pupil who is allowed back into the classroom, but only to sit in the corner separated from his friends. We aren't on probation, but given the ministry of reconciliation.
- People who received a divine makeover and became ambassadors
 - 1) Woman at the well (John 4)
 - 2) Zaccheus (Lk. 19)
 - 3) Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9)

There is a fear of going back to the old life.

- The clean-shaven father is still a hippie inside.
- The grandson is still a drag queen inside.
- The “frumpy” wife may be suffering from a depression that will not allow her to maintain an attractive appearance.

We have become a new creation, however. “The old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” There is no need to fear, for, as far as the Lord is concerned, our future is secure.

One spring, sometime before the Civil War, a boy in search of work came to Worthy Taylor's prosperous Ohio farm. The farmer knew nothing much about the boy except that his name was Jim, but he gave him a job. Jim spent the winter cutting stove wood, bringing in the cows and making himself generally useful. He ate in the kitchen and slept in the hayloft.

Before the summer was over, Jim had fallen in love with Taylor's daughter. The father refused to let him marry her because he had no money, no well-to-do name, and a very poor future. Even though Jim was disappointed, he put his belongings in his old carpetbag and disappeared.

Thirty-five years passed before Taylor one day tore down his barn to make room for a new one. On the rafters above the hayloft he discovered that Jim had carved his full name--James A. Garfield. He was then the president of the United States.

God sees the potential in us. He sees us as **being** what we are in the process of **becoming**.

CONCLUSION

TV shows “While You Were Out” and “Trading Spaces” remodeling

A man was selling an old warehouse, the building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Gangs had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and thrown trash everywhere. As he showed a prospective buyer the property, the man took pains to say that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and clean out the garbage.

“Forget about the repairs,” the buyer said. “When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; I want the site.

Compared with the re-creation that God has in mind, our efforts to improve our own lives are as trivial as sweeping a warehouse that is slated for the wrecking ball.

When we become God's, the old life is over, He makes all things new. All he wants is the site and the permission to build. Will you give Him your life today and give Him permission to build a brand new you?

Rom. 6:4-6 Baptism is where one lays aside his old self and puts on the new self.

Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” NKJV

Titus 3:5-7

5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. NASU