

1	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Buttons as Embellishment:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Showing the Beautiful Image of Christ to the World</i></p>
	<p>Welcome, Thank you, Explain and Read “Story of A Button” Devo</p>
2	<p>I have this old faded little tub of buttons, it belonged to my <b>Mama</b>, my mom's mom. Every now and then I look at it and think of her. It makes me sad and happy at the same time.</p> <p>I was looking at it one day and started thinking of buttons, that is where these lessons came from.</p> <p>From those little devotional thoughts about buttons. Something so casual and often overlooked. Tonight's lesson we are going to focus on the use of a button as a decoration, an embellishment, something that is seen by others.</p>
3	<p>We have seen buttons on clothes that are just there for looks, for no real purpose other than <b>fashion</b>.</p>
4	<p>We have seen buttons for different things. Buttons that show <b>opinions or beliefs</b> we support.</p>
5	<p>Buttons that tell others of groups we support or are a part of. Buttons can be used to express to others quickly part of <b>who we are and what we are all about</b>.</p>
	<p>In many ways <b>our role in Christ's family can be like this kind of a button</b>.</p> <p>We are out there to show the world about Christ and what He is all about by the lives we live and the image of Him we portray.</p> <p>Just as people can look at buttons we wear and know certain things about us, they can tell we are trying to look fashionable or support a cause, or that we are proud of a group we belong to.</p> <p>They should be able to look at us and learn something about Him, about the God we claim to serve.</p> <p>They should see our lives, our actions, hear the words we speak and know who we are and most importantly whose we are.</p> <p>As I thought of this lesson and the image we show to the world, I was reminded of a verse.</p>
6	<p>Matthew 5:16 We will look at this verse tonight and again tomorrow morning.</p> <p><i>“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”</i></p>
7	<p><b>We are to Let our light Shine!</b></p> <p>This verse makes me think of the song we sing with our kids,  “<i>This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...</i>”  It is always a treat to hear the little ones sing it, holding up their little lights.</p> <p>But as adults do we remember that light?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Do we think about it shining in our lives?</li> <li>* Are we conscious of what we are shining out for the world to see?</li> <li>* Do we purposefully act in ways so that God is glorified when people see the way we act, the way we live?</li> </ul> <p>As Christians we hold a special job in this world. We are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Ambassadors,</li> <li>* Messengers,</li> <li>* Pro-claimers of God's Word,</li> </ul> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">of His name,  of the Life that Jesus lived  and the gift He gave on the cross for all the earth.</p>

	<p>The salvation he offers pure and free to those who will believe and obey.  Can people see that when they look at us?  Are we wearing that badge of honor, that button with pride?  Do we show it off or try to hide it away under layers only to bring out around certain people or certain situations?  Do we hide our light under a bushel?  You know I was <b>surprised</b> a little when I looked up that song <b>in our books at church</b>. I had never really paid attention to the other verses of that song in the book.  They are different from the ones we sing at VBS. You know the ones.</p>
8	<p>Kids Version:  1) This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.  2) All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine.  3) Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine.  4) Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine.  5) Let it shine til Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine,  <b>These were the verses I knew, and had grown up singing.</b>  Yet in our songbooks I found these instead</p>
9	<p>1) This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.  2) When I go to work, Don't you know that I'm gonna let it shine.  3) When I'm on the street, Don't you know that I'm gonna let it shine.  4) When I'm with the church, Don't you know that I'm gonna let it shine.  <b>Another version of the song had these verses...</b></p>
10	<p>1) Ev'ry where I go, I'm going to let it shine  2) All in my house, I'm going to let it shine  3) Out in the dark, I'm going to let it shine  <b>Is this us?</b></p> <p>Are we letting our light shine?  Or for this lesson's sake, our buttons show and shine?  When we are at work?  On the street?  At church?  At home?  Everywhere we go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is so important that we are,</li> <li>• that we are not hiding it away,</li> <li>• burying our faith in God from the world that so desperately needs to know Him.</li> </ul>
	<p>But what does it really mean?  If we are wanting to let that image of Christ shine out in our lives bright and far, do we really know what image that is that we are supposed to be portraying?  What are we really supposed to look like?  When others look at us, what are they really supposed to see?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes we ask questions and we get back general, generic answers,  Like Christ,</li> <li>• WWJD,</li> <li>• Act godly,</li> <li>• Act like a Christian.</li> </ul> <p>But do we really understand what that means?</p>

	<p><b>When I had the opportunity to speak to you last summer</b>, I mentioned that women were such a <b>special creation of God</b>.</p> <p>We, mankind in general, are special because we were made in a certain image, a certain likeness, <b>God's likeness</b>.</p>
11	<p><b>Genesis 1:26</b> starts out.. <i>“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;”</i></p>
12	<p>and <b>verse 27</b> says, <i>“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”</i></p> <p>God made His children to look like Him.</p> <p><b>How special is our image?</b></p> <p>We were made in the most beautiful image, Yet sin caused us to lose that image.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sin marred that perfect image,</li> <li>• blurred the edges so that we were unrecognizable as God's children.</li> <li>• We gave that image of our Father away selfishly, but Jesus came so that we could have it back.</li> <li>• So that we could be like the Father once more.</li> <li>• We could be what we were intended to be,</li> <li>• something greater than we could ever be on our own.</li> </ul> <p>But are we living it, day to day, can someone look at us and say, nothing doubting, <b>“That is a child of God!”</b></p> <p>Would we have the courage of Paul to say,</p>
13	<p><i>“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”</i> <b>1 Cor. 11:1</b></p> <p>I know that I would be afraid of that statement. I know my flaws, but I know that am trying.</p> <p>Are we always trying? Trying to be recognizably different from the world around us?</p> <p><b>We are called to be.</b> God predestined all who would hear and believe in His truth to be conformed to the image of His Son.</p>
14	<p><b>Romans 8:29</b> says, <i>“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be <u>conformed to the image of His Son</u>, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”</i></p> <p><b>He has called us to come back to our original image!</b> He wants us to resemble Him again! Is that who we look like?</p> <p>Look with me at <b>2 Cor. 13:5</b></p>
15	<p><i>“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are to test ourselves,</li> <li>• looking closely in the mirror of Christ to see if we have His reflection in our lives.</li> </ul> <p>If we examine ourselves closely, honestly, who would we resemble?</p>

Would we recognize Christ in us?  
Would others?

In **Romans 12** Paul says,

16 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

We are to present out bodies to God as a living sacrifice,  
giving up our self to live for Him,  
as our reasonable service.  
Not over the top, asking too much, but reasonable.

A sacrifice that is not conformed to this world, but transformed into something that proves the good and perfect will of God for all of us.

If we are living like the world lives, how can we ever expect to look like Christ?

The world is against everything Christ is for. **We must be different from the world.**

In **Romans 8**, if you will turn with me there, look at the first few verses with me. **(1-9)**

*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

Paul says so much in this passage.

So many things that should give us such **hope and assurance**,  
no condemnation for those who are in Christ.  
Freed from sin and death.  
God did all that by sending His Son,

heaven's most perfect gift, for us.

Because without it, the flesh is dead. We are dead

17 **Look again at verse 6-8**

*“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*

- If we look like the world,
- think like the world,
- that carnal mind equals death.
  
- But to live and think like the Spirit of God is life and peace,
- (Something we are going to get into in another lesson!)
- 
- The two can't mix.

**Verse 7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God.

**Enmity...** do we get how strong of a word that is? The word actually means  
**“the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.”**

If we are not in Christ, living for Him, then we are living for the world, actively opposed, actively hostile toward God.

**There is no fence setting.** If we are not living for Him and showing Him to others through our lives, then we are against Him.

I suspect **you would not be there this weekend,**

- desiring to grow closer to Him and learn from His word,
- and desiring this fellowship with your sisters
- if your hearts, your lives were hostile toward God.

We have chosen this life, **a life that is different.**

A life that seeks that closeness with Him, **that family resemblance.**

We no longer want to be conformed to that world of sin and death we have given up and left behind. Look at what Peter tells us,

18 *“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **14** as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; “ **1 Peter 1:13-14***

**He has called us out of that life.**

We are to be His obedient children, not going back to those former things,

He called us out of them, out of that kind of life.

To No longer look like those things

19 Look at what Peter writes in the next chapter (**1 Peter 2:9**)  
*“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”*

He called us out of that darkness but not just that...

He called us to be into something else,  
 into His Marvelous light!

We need to continue in what He called us into....

I know we are jumping back and forth a little but

Look back In Chapter one, he continued to say....

20 ***15** but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” **1 Peter 1:15-16***

He calls us out of that former life to be Holy as God is Holy.  
That is the reason why are to be different! Because we want to be like God, our creator!

In all your conduct, **everything we do should be done in a way that is holy unto the Lord.**  
We are called to be in the very image of Jesus who is the very image of God.

***“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” Col. 1:15***

If we are seeking Him, living for Him, then we are being transformed into that very same image.  
He came to Earth and showed us the very image of God!  
Jesus told Philip, *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father;”* (John 14:9)  
He came to show us that perfect image so we can know what the Father looks like so we can show Him to the world.

21 *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **18 But we all, 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 by the Spirit of the Lord.**” 2 Cor. 3:17-18*

That is the image we want, the image we want to shine to the world. The image of God.

In this world where image is everything, we are constantly being told how to define that image

- by magazines,
- tv shows,
- movies,
- clothing stores.
- They try to tell us how we should look, how we should act if we want to fit in.

But we should not want to fit in to this sin cursed world.

We want to be transformed away from it and into something more.

Our image needs to be different and noticeably so.

Because that is all the world will see and that is what the world will judge us by.

The world judges based on what it sees.

Even those who try so hard to fit in are often criticized, rejected and left feeling diminished and not good enough.

**Self esteem issues plague** so many women, and not just teenagers.

Even as adults it can be too tempting to play the comparison game.

- Our looks,
- our homes,
- our families,
- our jobs,
- our lives,
- stacking them up beside all those around us and comparing can be dangerous.

Yet the temptation is there because we want to feel accepted, to feel included.

- No one wants to feel left out.

But if we are in Christ, then we have to remember **we have been accepted**, completely. We have been included into the most **precious family of God. A royal family.**

We do not need to be concerned with image the way the world would lead us to believe. Turn with me and look at **1 Peter 3:3-4**

22 *“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— **4** rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a*

*gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”*

23 I like the word merely in verse 3. God expects us to show concern for our appearance, to be presentable and modest.

To care for this body He has given to us.

We owe it to Him to put our best foot forward in this world but as we look at verse four that isn't to be our focus.

24 *“rather let it be the hidden person of the heart,”*

This is the type of beauty that is Christ's. A beauty that doesn't fade, that's incorruptible.

The image of a gentle and quiet spirit in this world is the image God wants us to put forward.

Peter says this is precious in the sight of God.

And this is where the true image of God must start, in the heart. Just as God told Samuel in 1 Sam. 16:7 when he was looking to anoint the new king,

*“For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

He isn't trying to deny the truth here, that the world, mankind, looks at our outward appearance and at our actions and judges us based on them.

We see this everyday and know it to be true, we see it many times in scripture, too.

But the bigger picture here is that it is inside where we really come from, it is who we are, it starts in our hearts, in our minds.

It is there where the image of God must begin and from there it will radiate out for all the world to see Christ's beauty.

Just as Paul said in **Rom. 12:2** *“be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

This is where we want to, **where we need to begin.**

I know we have kind of been all over the place, jumping to lots of scriptures,

but I want us to hang out in one passage for a while now, please turn over to

**Philippians 2.**

If we are going to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, from a mind corrupted and filled with lies from this world,

what does the new one look like?

25 *“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, **2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**”*

**Verses 1-2** Paul is calling us all to have unity of mind.

God wants us to be One in Him, to have His mind and His image.

In **verse 2** alone, that idea of **unity of mind is recounted 4 different ways.** He is giving great emphasis to this.

He calls us to have the same love as Christ has for us.

The sacrificial, agape, love that He showed us as He walked those dusty streets, as he served the apostles and washed their feet. Love that led Him to hang on a cross.

Paul then gives that mind, that image a little more detail,

26 *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for***

*the interests of others.”*

In verse 3 and 4 he explains what that mind resembles.

A mind, and image that is humble.

Is not driven by selfish desires or ambitions.

Already this is different from the what the world would teach us. The world teaches that we need to take care of number 1!

That what ever it is that will make us happy we should do it, regardless of who else it would hurt or offend.

God says that isn't His image.

His image is an image that esteems others first.

We are not only to look out for ourselves but for others.

That is the start of the mind of Christ. He goes on to say...

27

“Let **this** mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, “

Let **this mind**, the mind he just described, be in us, just as it was in Jesus, who came and gave Himself so we may live.

That life that put others first, that showed love and unity and self sacrifice.

But he doesn't stop there, no He defines this mind even more, giving us the very example of Christ.

*“who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.” (verse 6-7)*

Even though Jesus was God, fully in the flesh, with all the power of God the Spirit, He showed us the truth of humility. He lowered Himself, even to the form or a bondservant, the lowest of servants and came down in the likeness of man.

- He who... at the creation spoke everything we know into existence
- Overthrew Egypt with plagues
- Parted the red sea
- Baals on Mt Carmel
- He came down here and experienced life
- he hungered,
- grew thirsty
- tired
- sorrowed and grieved
- experienced pain loss and rejection

**He took on our image so we could take back His!**

He came and humbled Himself, it goes on to say in

**verse 8**, “*And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*”

God the Son came down and learned something new to show us the way.

**He learned obedience.**

This was something new for our Lord. He was there in the beginning, John tells us that “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*” (John 1:1-3)

He was there, in the middle of all the powers, Equally God. Yet He took on a new role,

He took on a role of submission to the Father, just as He has called us to do. He has nothing of us that He wasn't willing to do Himself.

He took it to the farthest extreme, obedience that lead to His death on the cross.



Our lives may not be called to that point, in some areas of the world, a Christian's life may be, but here we are blessed not to have to fear death for our belief in Him, but that doesn't take away the responsibility of taking on His image. That image of an obedient, humble servant. He doesn't stop the description there, look down a few more verses.

*“Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”*

While we have that attitude of humility we are serve without, “complaining and disputing.” Depending on what version you use those words could be translated, complaining and murmuring, fault-finding, arguing, (This is a verse I love to read to my kids! Hoping it will stick one of these times)

We are to have that Christ like mind, knowing that we are doing this for Him, without complaining about the life we have chosen to live.

Living this way we will be what we are striving for, “children of God”.

It says without fault, because we are not living for the world's approval, but for God's. So we may rejoice when He comes.

We will have that image of Him.

The image that shows his unity of mind with other believers, humility and obedience to Him.

The servant's heart willing to put others before our self.

What's the big deal though? What if we don't have this image.

What does it really matter?

It matters for the same reason we mentioned above,

the same truth God reminded Samuel, “*man looks at the outward appearance.*”

We are being judged by all those who see us.

More importantly, if we wear the name of Christ, then He is being judged based on what people see in us.

We are being held under a microscope if we claim to be living for Christ.

**In Ex. 20 we have the record of the 10 Commandments** God delivered to Moses.

Why am I throwing them in here? Look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> one with me,

*“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”* (verse 7)

If we wear the name of Christ and we are not living the image of Christ, we are guilty of taking His name in vain by the life we live.

28

"By failing to demonstrate in day-to-day living the qualities [of] that the law they profess to love, they not only fail to be the light that God wants them to be - they actually harm the reputation of God."- Douglas Moo

If we know Jesus, know the example He calls us to, the life He called us to live, and we are not doing that, then God will not hold us guiltless.

Titus 1:16 tells us, “*They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.*” Let us not deny Him in our works, our lives, how scary is that verse.

Being *abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.*” If we are not living worthy of the name we bear then we are disqualified for His work, His service (which we will look more at in the morning).

Yes, they are big shoes to fill, we are not going to always measure up, walk perfectly. We are going to mess up and stumble.  
 But a life that is constantly moving in that direction is going to be that stand out, different image, from the world.  
 It will be recognizable and will be something that will have others asking questions, wanting to know more about why we live the way we live.  
 It is the image we bear that will lead others to God. That is why our image is so important in this world.

There are so many verses I could have brought out with this lesson. So many examples of Christian living, and what that life should look like, lists of do's and do not's.  
 But we are striving for this part, to have the mind of Christ in us, then we will search for those things, we will look at His example and learn all those things from Him directly. But that is where the change, the transformation must start. We must have that mind, and that mind will lead us to the changed/transformed image in our lives.

29 Let us be like David. Seeking God. And let us not be satisfied until we are like Him!  
 "I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness." (Psalm 17:15b)  
 Let that always be our goal!

In Col. 3:8-10 Paul writes "*But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*"  
 We were called to put off the old things of this world, and have put on that new person, to be renewed in knowledge, through the example of Jesus, according to that image of the one who created us!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Every day, every day, every day, every way,  
  
 Gonna let my little light shine.  
 Light that shines is the light of love,  
 Hides the darkness from above,  
 Shines on me and it shines on you,  
 Shows you what the power of love can do.  
 Shine my light both bright and clear,  
 Shine my light both far and near,  
 In every dark corner that I find,  
 Let my little light shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Monday gave me the gift of love,  
 Tuesday peace came from above,  
 Wednesday told me to have more faith,  
 Thursday gave me a little more grace,  
 Friday told me to watch and pray,  
 Saturday told me just what to say,  
 Sunday gave me the power divine,  
 Just to let my little light shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

**Children's version**  
 This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.  
 This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.  
 Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.  
 All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine.  
 All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine.  
 All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine.  
 Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.  
 Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine.  
 Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine.  
 Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine.  
 Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.  
 Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine.  
 Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine.  
 Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine.  
 Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.  
 Let it shine til Jesus comes.  
 I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Let it shine til Jesus comes.  
 I'm gonna let it shine,  
 Let it shine til Jesus comes.  
 I'm gonna let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

<p>This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Shine, shine, shine, shine, shine.</p>	
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