



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

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## Who Do You Resemble?

PASTOR ANDY JOHNSTON

WE WERE AT THE STORE THE OTHER NIGHT AND I WAS WALKING WITH JACK PATRICK AND TITUS TYCHICUS AND A NICE LADY (PROBABLY AROUND 45) WAS WALKING PAST US AND SHE SAID, “OOOHH MY! THEY ARE CERTAINLY BOTH YOUR MINI-ME’S!” TRANSLATION: THEY LOOK JUST LIKE YOU.

ALL I COULD REALLY DO WAS SMILE AND SAY THANK YOU. I DIDN’T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY. MAYBE IF I WAS WITTIER I WOULD OF SAID, “IT IS QUITE THE COINCIDENCE THAT THEIR GENOTYPE DETERMINED THAT THEIR PHENOTYPE WOULD RESEMBLE ME”. IT NEVER DAWNED ON ME THAT MY BOYS DIDN’T LOOK LIKE ME.

IT IS IN THEIR MAKE-UP; THEIR GENES TO LOOK LIKE LIZ AND ME.

AS HUMANS IT IS IN OUR MAKE-UP TO RESEMBLE GOD. OF COURSE THAT IMAGE WAS MARRED AT THE FALL (GENESIS 3), BUT THROUGH CHRIST, ALL REDEEMED PEOPLE ARE IN A PROCESS CALLED SANCTIFICATION TO RESTORE THAT IMAGE IN HIM. IT IS NOT TO BE “CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, SO THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT THE WILL OF GOD IS, THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT” (ROMANS 12:2).

THIS PASSAGE IS USED SO MUCH IN TODAY’S CHURCHES, AND RIGHTFULLY SO. WE LIVE IN A CULTURE WHERE IT IS BECOMING HARDER TO DISTINGUISH WHO BELONGS TO THE FATHER AND WHO DOESN’T. IN AN EFFORT TO WITNESS, CHRISTIANS CAN COME DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO CONFORMING TO THIS WORLD. THERE IS A DESIRE TO SEE PEOPLE SAVED BUT INSTEAD OF PRESENTING A HOLY AND PERFECT SAVIOR TO THE LOST, WE LOWER HOLINESS AND RELABEL IT AS “TRYING TO RELATE”.

BY LIMITING THE HOLINESS IN OUR OWN LIVES WE CAST OFF A POOR REPRESENTATION OF GOD’S HOLINESS TO OTHERS. HOW DARE WE BRING DOWN GOD’S HOLINESS TO THE LEVEL OF MAN, WHEN MAN SHOULD BE REACHING UP FOR HIS HOLINESS.

SO LET’S CONTINUALLY BE TRANSFORMED; THE PROCESS THAT BEGINS FROM THE INSIDE (NOT THE OUTSIDE). THIS WAS PERFECTLY ILLUSTRATED WITH THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST (MATT 17:2). FOR A MOMENT, PETER, JAMES AND JOHN WERE ABLE TO SEE OUTWARDLY THE GLORY THAT HAD BEEN COVERED WHILE CHRIST WAS ON EARTH. WE, IN LIKE MANNER, DAILY, SHOULD DESIRE TO SHOW THE INNER, REDEEMED NATURE THAT WE NOW HAVE THROUGH CHRIST.

AS CHRIST SAYS, “IF ANYONE DESIRES TO COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW AFTER ME”.

EVERY DAY WE ARE TO DENY “SELF” WHICH DESIRES TO CONFORM TO THIS WORLD. EVERY DAY WE ARE TO PURSUE THE TRANSFORMATION OF “SELF” AND REVEAL THE REDEEMING WORK OF OUR SAVIOR. IN A VERY PRACTICAL SENSE WE SHOULD MAKE PEOPLE JEALOUS FOR WHO WE HAVE, NOT CONTENT FOR WHO THEY ARE.

LET’S DESIRE TO LOOK LIKE WHO WE WERE ALWAYS CREATED TO LOOK LIKE. LET’S DESIRE TO RESEMBLE OUR CREATOR GOD. LET’S BE THANKFUL FOR A SAVIOR WHO HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE.