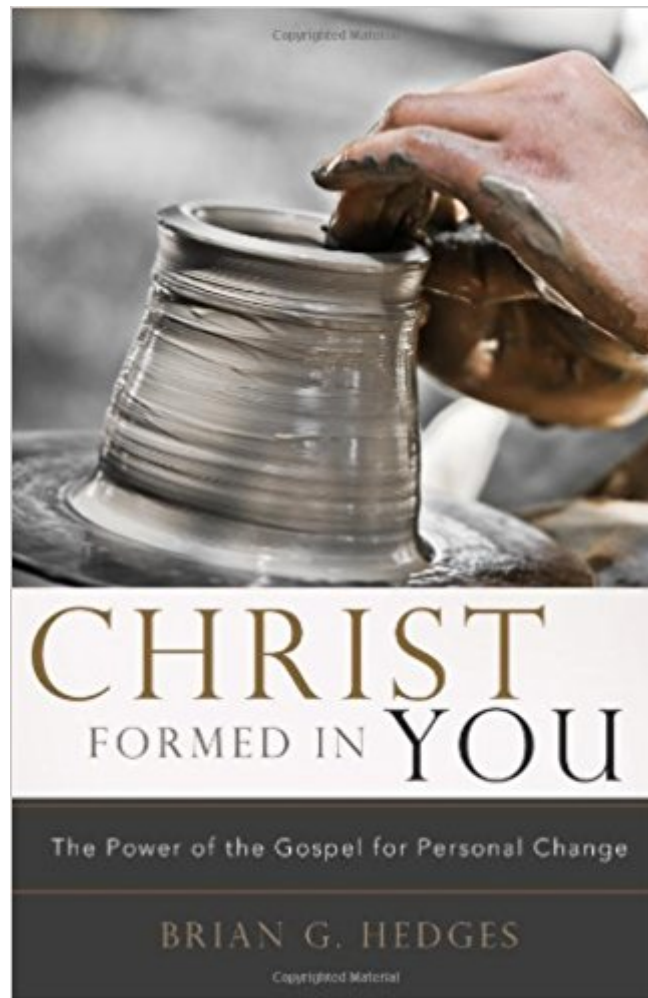




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# Christ Formed In You: The Power Of The Gospel For Personal Change



## Synopsis

The central claim in *Christ Formed in You* is that it is God's purpose to change us by progressively making us more like Jesus, and that this happens only as we understand and apply the gospel to our lives. In the pages that follow we will explore the transforming power of the gospel from several angles. Part One focuses on the foundations for personal change. We will look at God's ultimate goal in transforming us (Chapter One); the key to transformation, which is the gospel itself (Chapter Two); and the application of the gospel to our lives in three specific ways (Chapters Three, Four, and Five). Part Two then takes up the pattern of personal change. We will explore the captivating beauty of gospel holiness (Chapter Six); with its demands that we both kill sin (Chapter Seven); and grow in grace by the power of the Spirit (Chapter Eight); and the quest for joy that motivates us in this pursuit and strengthens us in the battle for holiness (Chapter Nine). Part Three of the book focuses on the means of personal change, the tools God uses to transform us. These final three chapters, while building on the foundation of the gospel discussed earlier in the book, are the most practical. We will learn how God uses spiritual disciplines (Chapter Ten); suffering (Chapter Eleven); and personal relationships in the body of Christ (Chapter Twelve) to conform us to the image of Christ. In each of these chapters, my aim has been to connect the dots between the gospel, the goal of Christlikeness, and the specific aspect of spirituality under discussion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"a very clear and carefully written book...a gift to the church" --ThemeliosThose who apply the

message of this insightful book will, by God's grace, find themselves growing into authentic Christlikeness." --Steven J. Lawson, Senior Pastor, Christ Fellowship Baptist Church, Mobile, AL

--Back Cover"This is a Gospel primer that I will recommend again and again." --Paul David Tripp, Pastoral staff of Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA

--Back Cover"Christ Formed in You is evangelical spirituality at its best!" --Del Fehsenfeld III, Pastoral Services Director, Life Action Ministries

--Back Cover"Brian Hedges sets the fullness of the gospel to work on the lives of believers, wielding it like a craftsman to shape us into images of Christ." --Kris Lundgaard, author of The Enemy Within

--Back Cover

"Brian Hedges brings a beautiful clarity to our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and pulls together a comprehensive patchwork of the Gospel's implications for everyday life. The result is a precise and practical picture of a lifestyle rooted in grace. This is a Gospel primer that I will recommend again and again." --Paul David Tripp, Pastoral staff of Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA

"With clarity, balance, common sense, and a relentless commitment to keeping his eye on the goal, Brian Hedges sets the fullness of the gospel to work on the lives of believers, wielding it like a craftsman to shape us into images of Christ." --Kris Lundgaard, author of The Enemy Within and Through the Looking Glass

"Brian Hedges combines credible exegesis with astute theological balance in his approach to spiritual formation. And he wraps it all up with a thoroughgoing Christ-centeredness that is practical and winsome. Christ Formed in You is evangelical spirituality at its best!" --Del Fehsenfeld III, Pastoral Services Director, Life Action Ministries

"Brian Hedges has done the church a great service in writing this book, which reveals the God-intended path of sanctification. The ultimate goal in spiritual maturity is to transform believers into the image of Christ. Those who apply the message of this insightful book will, by God's grace, find themselves growing into authentic Christlikeness." --Steven J. Lawson, Senior Pastor, Christ Fellowship Baptist Church, Mobile, AL

This is a much more doctrinal exploration of spiritual formation than "Renovation of the Heart" (Dallas Willard). That is both a strength and weakness. It increases the integration with Doctrine but veers also to the border on Modernity. Willard's book, and his extensive work on spiritual formation, hints at something approaching a trans-modern approach to living now and into the future when Truth will not be expressed in statements of doctrine only in part but also as solid Realities that are seen, heard, touched, smelled, tasted, imagined, and lived. Hedges, towards the end of his book, peeks into deeper Reality also. It can aid your odyssey also. Sadly, there were a few "pages" in this

Kindle edition that must have omitted a line or a few words as the flow of the sentence was disrupted.

I found this book to be a treasure trove, packed with scripture and quotes from my most beloved Christian authors. I think that the careful, concise outline for Christian maturity and sanctification was one of the most helpful and well-laid-out books that I have ever seen. There was not a lot of new material in this book for me, however the material that it did contain is so vital and central for what it means to be a pilgrim on the road to the Celestial City that it was a delight to read, and it is a book that I feel is a great aid to any Christian seeking to progress in the faith. I loved all the poetry and hymnody that was included in virtually every chapter, it really helped get the truth to the "bone-level" and made the tone of the book very devotional in nature, which is vital for the engagement of the affections as well as the mind.

I have found this book by Brian Hedges to be one of the Finest books on Sanctification in 30 years. Clear, easily understandable, a Must read for anyone who desires to live from the Gospel by the Power of Jesus Christ I would also recommend the Study guide which really enables the reader to dig deeper into his soul with probing questions and easy to remember outlines.

Brian Hedges' first book is a clear presentation of the gospel and how the gospel impacts our salvation and the process of being conformed to the image of Christ. The organization of the book and the combination of biblical exegesis, quotes from God-centered writers of the past and present, and some very good illustrations combine to make this a book that is really a reference work that one can use again and again on the topics in the three major sections of the book: Part 1: The Foundations for Personal Change - All five chapters in this section are related to how the gospel powerfully changes us to conform us to the image of Christ. Part 2: The Pattern of Personal Change - Focuses on four key areas of growth in the Christian life - Holiness, Dying to Sin, Understanding and Applying Grace, and the Quest for Joy. Part 3: The Means of Personal Change - Three chapters on "how" to become more like Christ - Practicing the Spiritual Disciplines; Preparing for and the purposes of suffering; and living out the Christian faith in the context of community. The book also has a very extensive section of helpful notes, a general index, and a Scripture index. I think this is an especially good book for young believers or Christians that would like to see the interplay of the gospel with reference to what saves us, and how we walk in that salvation. I think what would make this book more helpful is a study guide or application questions at the end of each chapter. I think

this book could easily be used and very beneficial for a small group, and even for a membership class - because it covers many of the essential teachings related to becoming a disciple of Jesus. Shepherd Press graciously provided a free copy of this book for my honest review.

If you've looked for a book that would move your heart, this is it. I have a desire to pray and a need to see Christ more and more!! May God bless you!!!

Brian Hedges takes to a difficult task, seeking to accomplish much within the pages of his book. An excellent starter book for someone who wants to learn the ins and outs of spiritual growth. He discusses many topics, from the theoretical of spiritual growth, to the practical outworkings of that same theory. He grounds his writings in the Bible, seeking to take his theory and practice from its teachings.

I was on the fence about buying this book but the great (Kindle) price convinced me and I'm so glad that it did. It was so well written and really tackles the issue of spiritual transformation and growth in a very clear and concise way. As cliched as it sounds it has actually changed my life and the way that I think about things. I probably highlighted at least 50% of it and I plan to go back and review. A really, really great book.

This was a insightful book on the Gospel- the Good News that is more than the start of the Christian life, but it is the whole of the Christian life. His life, His death, and His resurrection is ours in His power in us. This book helped me to see the whole in a much wider look, as well as how to apply the strength of Christ in us.

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