

## **SPITTING IMAGE**

Romans 8:29

September 23, 2007 Sunday a.m.

### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. The undeniable, biological fact is that most children usually end up looking like their parents.
  1. Those DNA strands work together to form a creature that resembles its creator.
  2. This is a source of pride for parents, but terror for our kids.
- B. What's true in biology is also true in theology...we are created to look like our creator.
  1. This is the third of the five purposes for living—"We were created to be like God's Son".
  2. We see this truth first in Genesis 1:26.
- C. What does it mean to be created to resemble God?
  1. Paul says it means to be like Jesus-Colossians 1:15.
  2. Further, Paul says, we were created to be like Jesus-Romans 8:29.
  3. This doesn't mean we become gods.
  4. It does mean, however, we should be godly.
  5. How? Jesus is our model of godliness and God molds our character to become like him. How?
- D. God uses everything we go through to mold and shape us to become like his son.
  1. This is what Romans 8:28 says.
  2. This further means we should expect to go through some of the same things Jesus went through—loneliness, temptation, stress, criticism, rejection, and other difficulties.
  3. What are some of these things God uses to make us godly?

### **I. FIRST, GOD USES HIS WORD TO MAKE US GODLY.**

- A. Alan Smith wrote the following in the "Wall Street Journal" to illustrate the importance of reading your computer manual...
  - Compaq is considering changing the command "press any key" to "press return key" because of the flood of calls asking where is the "any" key.
  - A Dell technician advises his customer to put his troubled floppy back into the drive and close the door. The customer asked the tech to hold on and was heard putting the phone down, getting up and crossing the room to close the door to his room.
  - An IBM customer had troubles installing software and rang for support. I put in the first disk and that was okay. It said to put in the second disk and I had some problems with that. When it said to put the third disk in, I couldn't even fit it in. The user hadn't realized that insert disk two meant to remove disk one first.
  - Another Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of troubleshooting the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the send key.
  - A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. He told the technician that the computer had said it couldn't find the printer. The user had also turned the computer screen to face the printer but his computer still couldn't see the printer.
  - Another customer called Compaq tech support to say her brand new computer wouldn't work. She said she unpacked the unit, plugged it in and sat there for 20 minutes waiting for something to happen. When asked what happened when she pressed the power switch, she asked, "What power switch?"
- B. God gave us a manual too—the Bible-2 Timothy 3:16. He uses it to help us become godly.

### **II. SECOND, GOD USES OTHER PEOPLE TO MAKE US GODLY.**

- A. Solomon tells us this-Proverbs 27:17.
- B. Marriage tells us this too. It's the quintessential illustration. For example, why does God bring certain people together?
  1. One is hot, the other cold. (not "hot" as in looks).
  2. One is emotional, the other a cold fish.
  3. One is an extrovert, the other an introvert.

4. One is an organizer, the other a slob.

C. Why does God do this? His sense of humor ! Or...

1. He uses other people, especially our own family, to help us become godly.

2. After all, you'd have to be a saint to live with some of you.

### **III. THIRD, GOD USES TROUBLES TO MAKE US GODLY.**

A. Even Jesus went through troubles-Mark 14:32-34.

B. There is no question that we will too-John 16:33.

C. The only question is if our troubles will make us or break us.

### **IV. FOURTH, GOD USES TEMPTATION TO MAKE US GODLY.**

A. Even Jesus was tempted-Matthew 4:1.

1. So its not a sin to be tempted.

2. Everyone is tempted by something.

B. The purpose of temptations is to give us an opportunity to prove to God we love him more than we love what is tempting us.

C. Remember two things we can do when temptations come.

1. First, discover the pattern and avoid it (computer, TV, etc).

2. Second, consider an accountability partner.

### **CONCLUSION**

A. Who do you see when you look in the mirror? Your mother or your father?

B. God wants to see Jesus in us.