

# AMANA TRUST BIBLE STUDIES

## Lesson 13

### The Conformation of the Brothers of God's Firstborn Son into His Image

#### Bible reading

*Please pray over these verses.*

#### **Romans 8:29-30**

**29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

**30** And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

#### Introduction

Our destiny as believers is to be fully conformed to the image of Christ to become His corporate expression. Conformation is the end result of transformation and causes us to grow from children, to sons, and then to legal heirs through the operation of the law of the Spirit of life within us.

#### Bible study reading

*Please prayerfully read through the following portions of ministry related to this lesson.*

We have been predestinated to be conformed to the image of God's Son that He may be the firstborn among many brothers. This is God's purpose. God's purpose is to produce many brothers of His firstborn Son. When Christ was the only begotten Son, He was unique, but God desired to have many sons who will be the many brothers of His Son. In this way the only begotten Son of God becomes the firstborn among many brothers. He is the firstborn Son, and we are the many sons. What is the purpose of this? The purpose is that we express God in a corporate way. (*Life-study of Romans*, msg. 20, section 2)

Conformation is the effect of transformation in life (2 Cor. 3:18), with the firstborn Son of God, the God-man who joins God to man, as the mold (Rom. 8:29). Conformation is the end result of transformation. It includes the changing of our inward essence and nature, and it also includes the changing of our outward form so that we may have the same image of Christ, the God-man, in glory.

God's firstborn Son, the God-man who joins God to man, is the mold to which we are being conformed. We are His mass production. Both the inward and the outward changes in us, the product, are the results of the operation of the law of the Spirit of life (v. 2) in our being. (*God's Salvation in Life*, ch. 3, section 2)

According to ancient law, heirs had to be of age and declared the legal heirs that they might claim the inheritance. Therefore, in this portion of Romans we have children by regeneration, sons by transformation, and heirs by transfiguration or glorification...The procedure which makes us legal heirs is the transfiguration of our body, that is, the redemption of our body, the full redemption (v. 23). (*Life-study of Romans*, msg. 19, section 3)

## Going deeper

Please read or listen to these materials for an in-depth study of this lesson.

### Further reading:

[Life-study of Romans, msg. 19, sections 1, 3](#)

[Life-study of Romans, msg. 20](#) (key life-study)

[Life-study of Romans, msg. 21, sections 1-2](#)

### Radio broadcast link:

Broadcast 19, [Heirs of Glory \(1\)](#)

Broadcast 21, [Heirs of Glory \(3\)](#)

### Footnotes from [Recovery Version of the New Testament](#):

Romans 8:29, footnotes 2-4

Romans 8:30, footnote 2

Romans 8:19, footnote 2

### Questions for personal or corporate study:

References in brackets indicate readings or broadcasts that may be helpful in answering the questions.

- How does Romans 8:29-30 show God's eternal purpose and the destiny of all believers? (Romans 8:29, footnote 2 and 4-5, Recovery Version)
- What is the meaning of conformation? (*Life-study of Romans*, msg. 20, section 2)
- Explain how Paul's progressive description of the believers (as children, sons, and heirs) is related to their experience of transformation, conformation, and glorification in the divine life. (*Life-study of Romans*, msg. 19, section 3; msg. 20, sections 1-2)

## Works Cited

Lee, Witness. *God's Salvation in Life*. Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 2001. [www.ministrybooks.org](http://www.ministrybooks.org)

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