



Conformed

PTM Plenary 2019

The Image Being Renewed

*and have put on **the new self**,
which is **being renewed** in
knowledge after **the image of**
its creator.*

Colossians 3:10



*For those whom he foreknew he also predestine to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

Romans 8:29



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Romans 8:29

Conformed

Conformed into the Image of the Son

Transformation

Spiritual Formation

Christoformity

Sanctification



“Conformed” is the Core Concern of God
and, thus, of the Pastoral Care Provider

*This “conformed” is what Paul in his pastoral work toiled so
diligently for in the lives of others:*

*“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching
everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone
mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his
energy that he powerfully works within me.”*

Colossians 1:28-29

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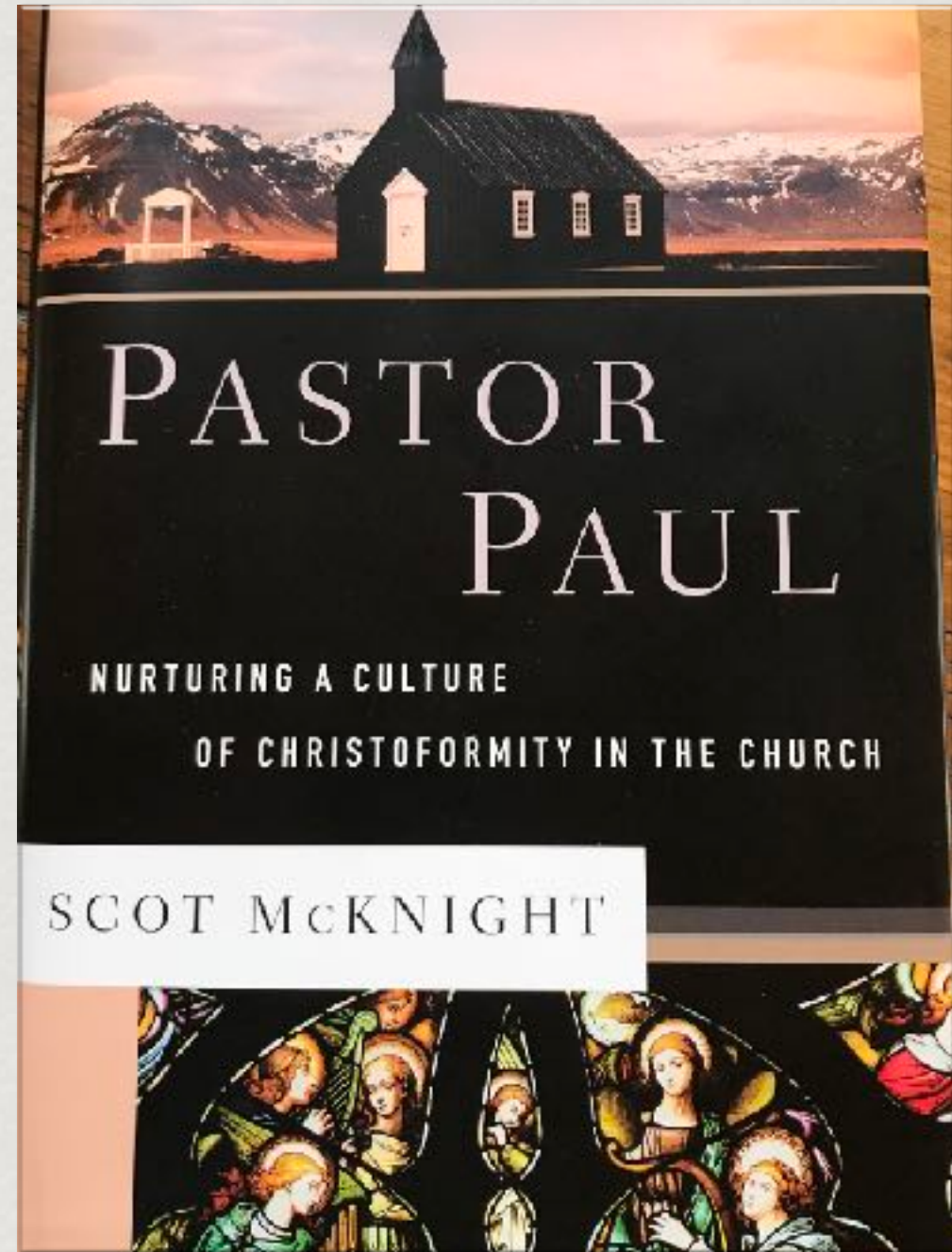
*Paul calls those in Christ to a responsiveness to the
conforming work of the Spirit within us...*

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed....”

Romans 12:2

*“The pastors first responsibility
is to nurture
and
to be nurtured into
spiritual formation.”*

Scot McKnight, (p. 15)

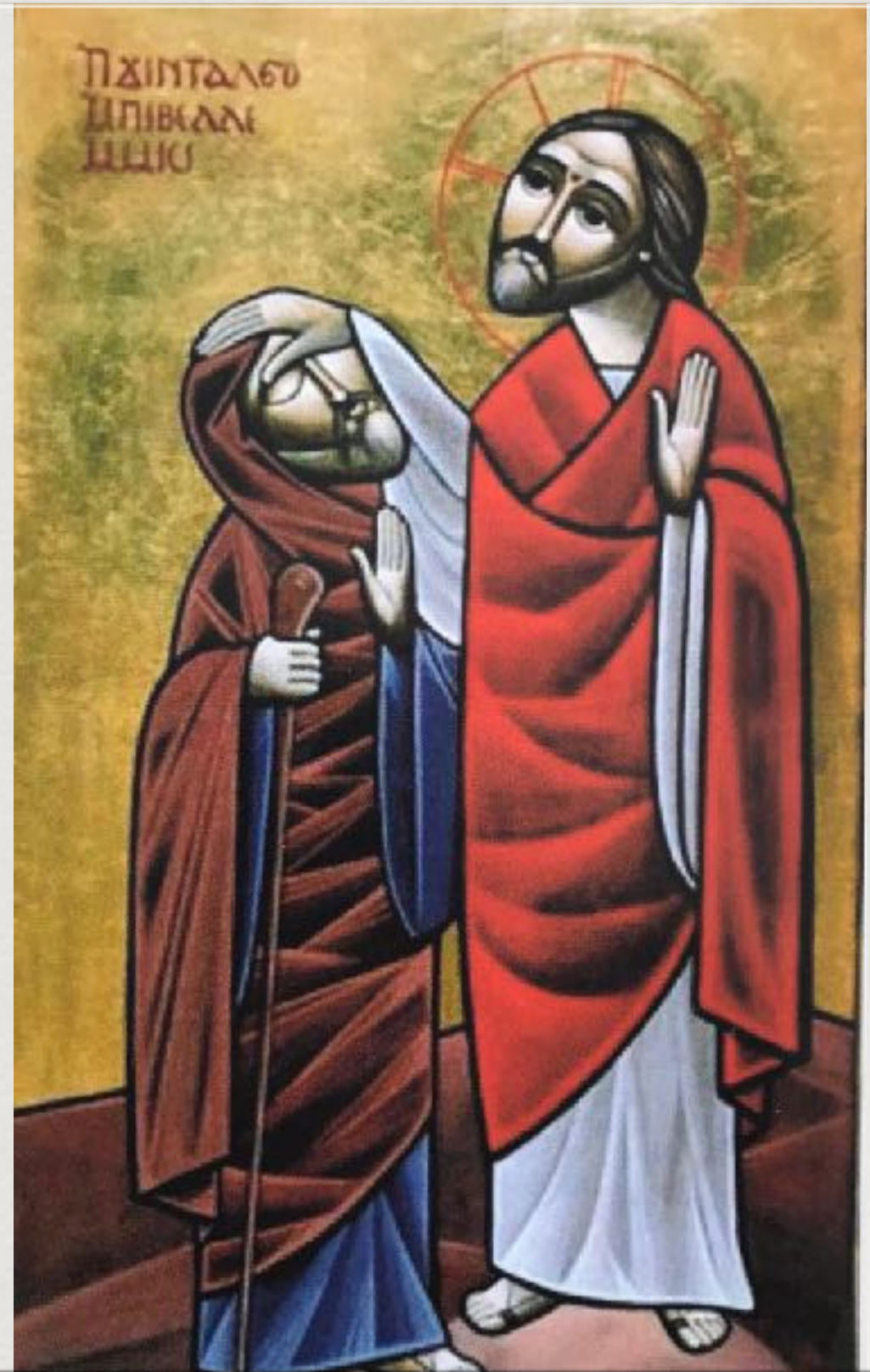


Our Calling

*Our call is to
be nurtured in conformity
to the Image of Christ*

and from that

*to nurture means for others
in their conformity.*



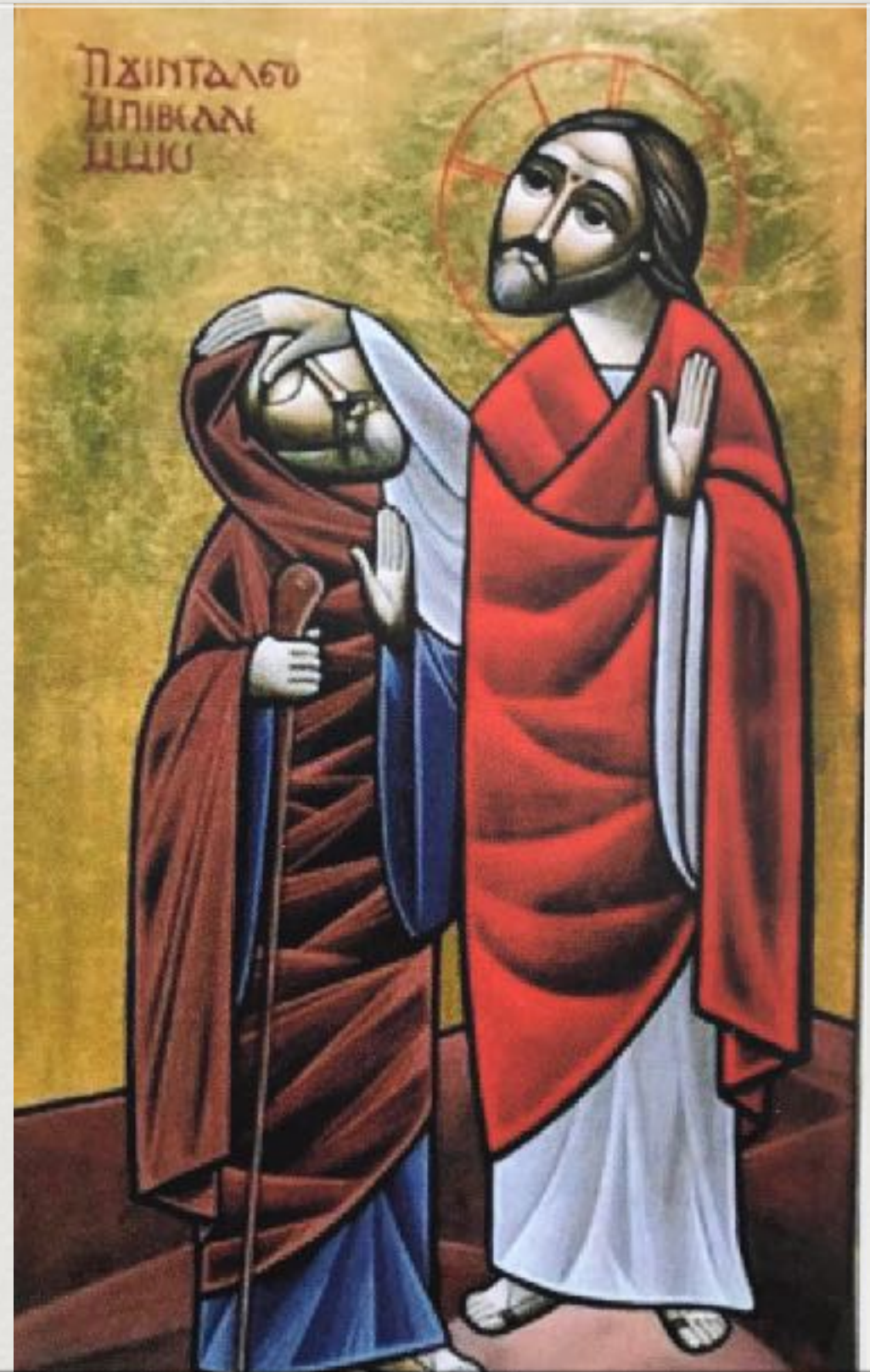
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in their conformity.*

*What does “conformed” entail?
How does it happen?*



Conformed: What Comes to Your Mind?



Some of My Misunderstandings

“I’ll try harder....I will figure this out.....”



“...Spiritual formation is not synonymous with virtue or character development. While it includes these, they are not the heart of the matter. If moral development is not derivative of our union with Christ, it is an impossible burden.”



Gordon T. Smith in *Called to Be Saints: An Invitation to Christian Maturity*

“Many books on the Christian life seem like nothing more than a christianized version of Stephen Covey’s Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, a classic of American civil religion with its implicit and explicit assumption that if we are successful it is because we have managed to get our lives together. If not, it is because we are lazy or lack resolve.”

*Gordon T. Smith in Called to Be Saints:
An Invitation to Christian Maturity*

Some of My Misunderstandings

~~*“I’ll try harder....I will figure this out.....”*~~



Some of My Misunderstandings on How

~~*“I’ll try harder....I will figure this out....”*~~

*This is far too manageable;
this is self-determining, self-
reliant.*

*The Father is after something
far deeper than this.*



Some of My Misunderstandings



“I’ve got to get out there and get it done.... Jesus needs me to build his kingdom...”

“If I am not busy about God’s work, supporters will drop us....”

Some of My Misunderstandings



~~*“Jesus needs me to build
his kingdom...”*~~

Some of My Misunderstandings



~~*“Jesus needs me to build his kingdom...”*~~

Again, this is far too manageable: I come up with a plan and work the plan...

The Father invites us into an eternal work....

Symptoms of My Misunderstandings



- ✿ *Busyness*
- ✿ *Weariness, Inability to rest or Sabbath well*
- ✿ *Fear, anxiety, an anxious presence*
- ✿ *Pride, self-righteousness*
- ✿ *Overwhelmed*
- ✿ *Isolated*
- ✿ *Misplaced identity.....*

Symptoms of My Misunderstanding



*There is no gospel in trying harder,
doing better or more.*

*These are not reflective of the
image of the Son, how he lived his
life on earth with the Father,
dependent on the Spirit, and in
service of others.....*

What do you experience when the pressure is on you to be more like Jesus?



Take a moment and reflect to yourself on what you experience when you simply try harder or do more...

Confess this to him.....

So how does transformation happen?



*“A God of transforming love...
who brings us into a life of joy, peace and wisdom....
He has given us promises to trust...the impact of
trusting his promises, of trusting him,
is literally transforming.”*

J. I. Packer

How does it Happen?

How does it Happen?

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2 Peter 1:3-4

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Partakers of divine nature - we participate in the Life of Christ.

In our union with him, by the Spirit, he lives his life in us...

How? and Why?

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29

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For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29

Note the familial wording:

“He” (God the Father)

Son (Jesus)

brothers (& sisters) (us)

This is our first hint.....

Why? What does God Desire?

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29

This is first about relationship!

Note the familial wording

“He” (God the Father)

Son (Jesus)

brothers (& sisters)

This is our first hint.....

“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.... I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 17:24, 26

Table Discussion

What has caught your attention about being conformed into the image of Christ?

What is the Spirit stirring in you?

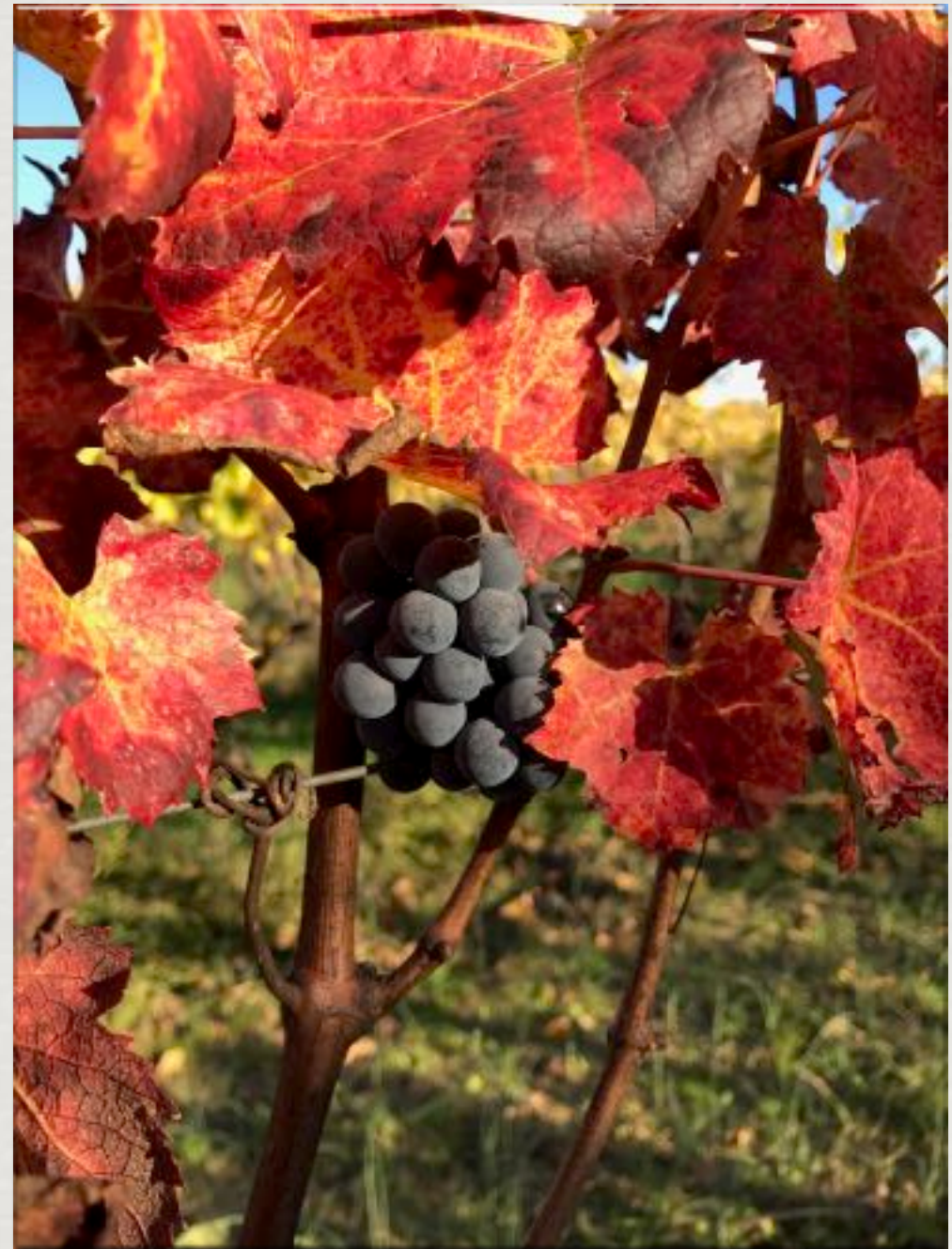


Concerning “Spiritual Formation”



Concerning “Spiritual Formation”

Spiritual formation is the ongoing process of the Holy Spirit drawing us deeper into the love and life of the Father and Son; which as a corollary shapes us into Jesus’ image of love for the Father and for the world, as we respond in loving obedience to his direction.

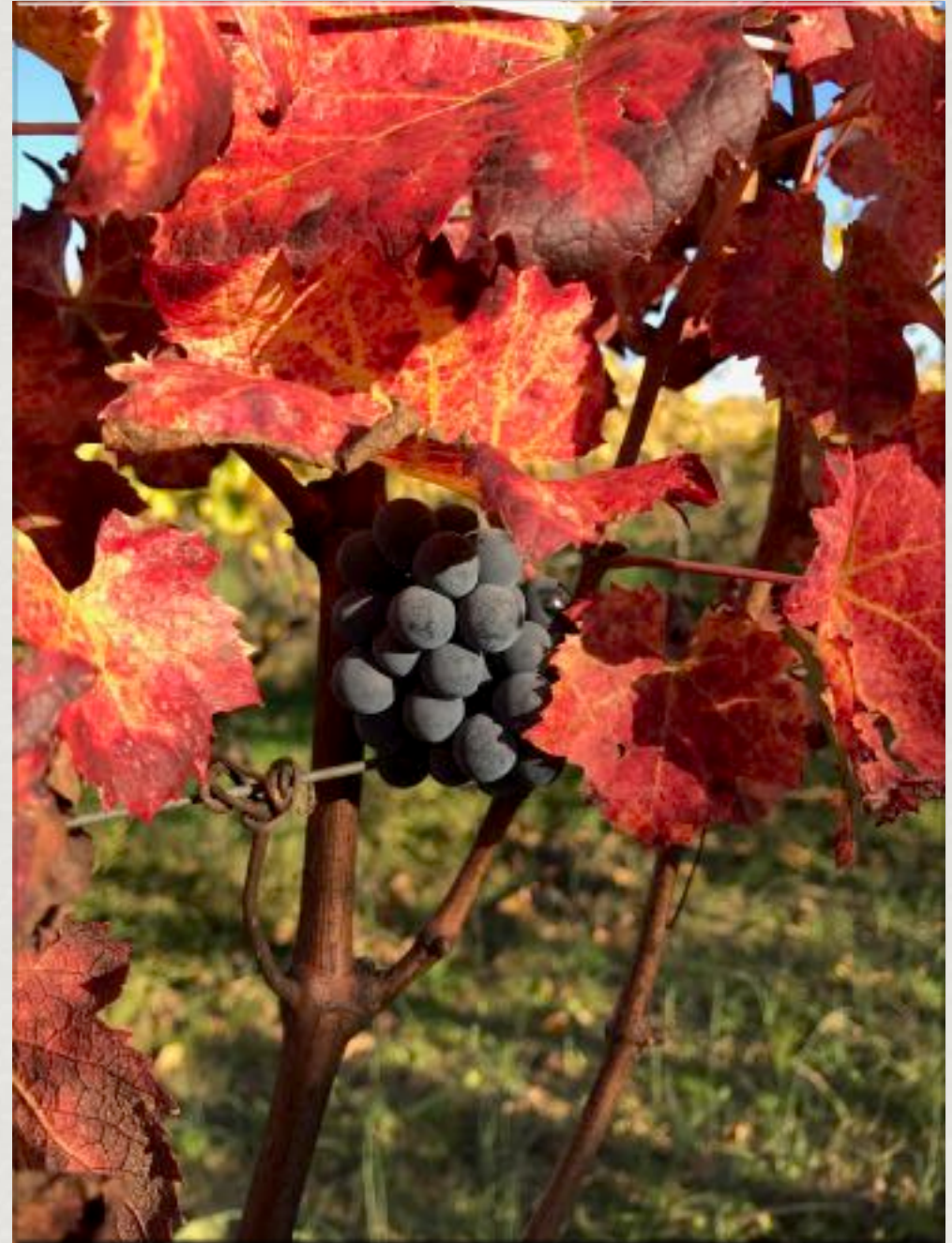


Concerning Suffering



Two Specific Responses to God's Conforming Work:

1. Response to God personally
2. Response to God in ministry to others



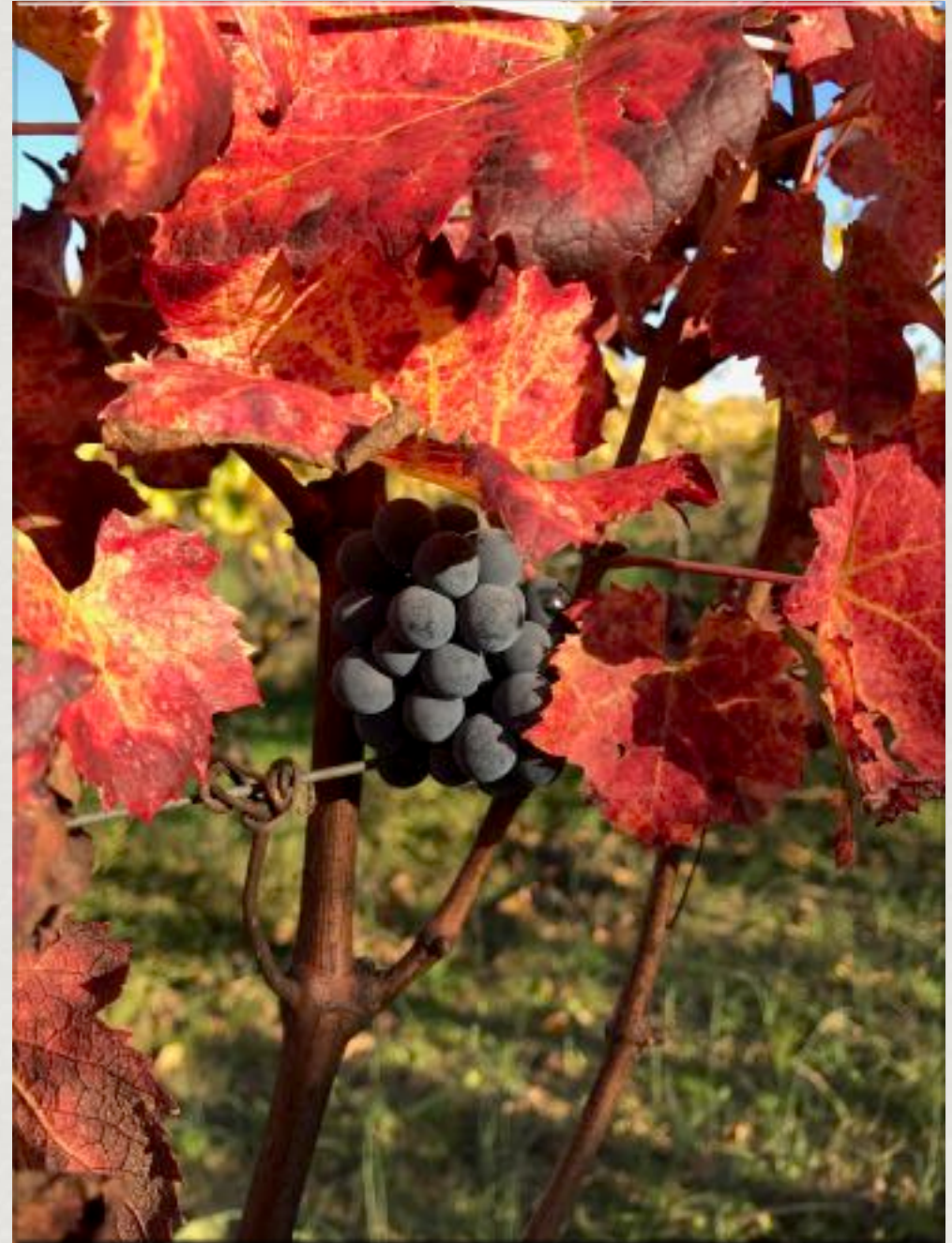
Response to God personally

A Diagnostic Mark of
Ongoing Maturity is
being immersed in the
Word and Responsive
Prayer



*There is an “indissoluble
union” between the Living
Word and the Written
Word.*

John Calvin



Two Specific Responses to God's Conforming Work:

1. Response to God
personally

2. Response to God
in ministry to others



*“The pastor nurtures a culture
of spiritual formation in the
direction of Christoformity.”*

Scot McKnight

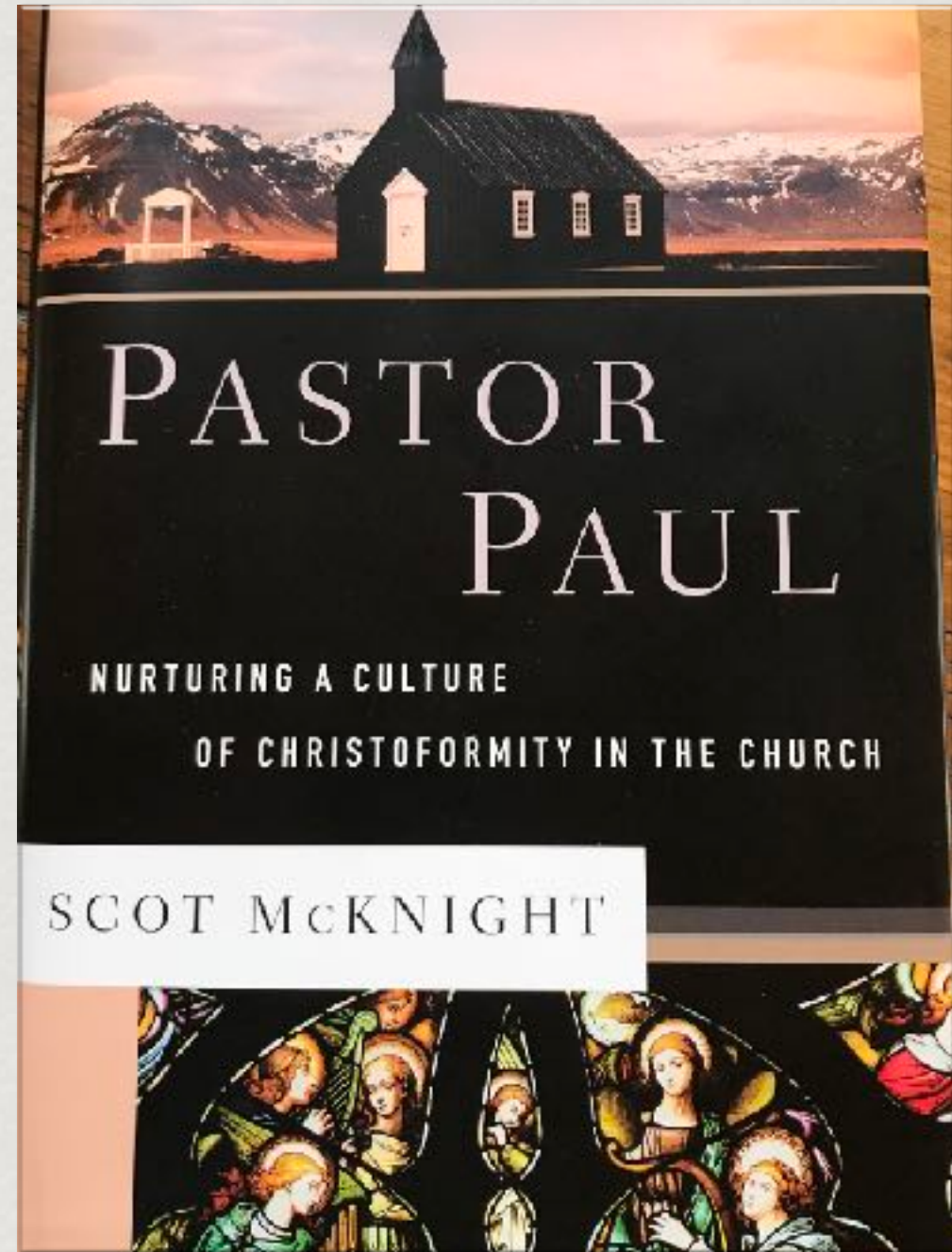




Table Talk

- *How could you begin to bring a greater level of nurturing others formation into your current context of provisional care and relational influence ?*
- *What is the Lord's invitation to you today from our study on conformed?*



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