

Being Transformed

by Wayne Goff

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

There is always the **danger** of trying to *short-circuit* one's religion by looking for *shortcuts*. But every one of God's steps in the plan of salvation has a divine purpose for man's soul. Faith changes one's object of trust. Repentance directs the mind to a change of life. Confession is a loyal allegiance to one's convictions. Baptism is the culmination of the process of submitting fully to the will of God in humble obedience. Leave one of these steps out, and you have failed to finish the divine process!

Furthermore, Jesus commanded His apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations, and after having baptized them, they were to teach them to observe ***all things*** that Jesus has commanded us (Matt. 28:18-20). Revelation 2:10 commands Jesus' disciples to be ***“faithful unto death”*** in order to obtain the crown of righteousness. Every act of public worship has a distinct part it plays in man's service to God. Every work of the church has its own special purpose and *cannot be substituted for anything else*. God's servants are to ***“be transformed by the renewing of”*** their minds (Rom. 12:2). There is a hard-hitting, practical side to what is being said here. If I am to be a living sacrifice to God, then I cannot live like those around me in this world! I must reject the pattern of the world. I must not be conformed to what everyone is doing! Paul lists some things in the book of Romans that we will do if we are seeking to be transformed: (1) We will use the talents God has given us to serve Him (12:3-8); (2) We will serve God with fervor (12:11); (3) We will treat personal mistreatment with kindness (12:14-21); (4) We will respect our leaders and love each other (ch. 13); (5) We will work for peace among our brethren and build up each other (14:19).

So now the tough question comes: ***“Does my life look like a life transformed by the Word of God?”*** If you are following Christ, it will be different. God determined before time began that Christians should be ***“conformed to the image of His Son”*** (Rom. 8:29). He will accept nothing less.

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