

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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Not Conformed...Transformed

Romans 12:1-2

To conform to something means to learn, to accept and to echo, (i.e., to adapt or comply with) the principles and truths of a system of belief(s), that governs a particular thing.

From an educational perspective when we are in school, we are taught, and we learn, academic (and other) systems of belief as prescribed by the institution that we attend. Words that are representative of these belief systems are: names and theories of authors & inventors, axioms, principles, formulas & theorems, laws and the like.

From an occupational perspective, we are taught (at best we accept; at worst we don't argue with) the systems of belief of our employer. Or we establish our own occupational systems of belief, in cases where we are the employer. Things such as values, integrity, cooperation, accountability and customer service (and many more) are the catch-phrases of the day in these environments.

In life we are socialized (by parents, siblings, teachers, etc) to conform to various systems of belief about life and its events; perceived truths, responsibilities (or the lack thereof), et al.

Not Conformed ...

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The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

Planning for 4th Quarter 2008

So, you set some major goals for 2008. At the beginning of the year you probably wrote down what you planned to accomplish. Great! Where are you now? Have you reached any milestones? Are you on track to attain your goals? Well, now is a good time for a checkup. I say this because there is only **one** quarter left in this year!

As leaders we know that we will have to review our goals at the end of the year. We will also begin to plan for 2009. But, before year-end arrives, we should get an update on where we are. By doing so, we will be able to make adjustments necessary to enable us to actually accomplish our goal(s).

For example, my husband and I set fourteen goals for 2008. I recently reviewed the status of each goal. It turns out that of the original fourteen, we've completed six goals; we had to move five goals to 2009 due to unforeseen circumstances; three goals are still in progress; and we have added and accomplished three additional goals.

Here's a question. Why is it important to update our goals? Well, let's see. We wrote our 2008 goals based on what we believed God had placed in our hearts to do. This means that not only are they **our** goals, but they are also **God's** goals. Therefore, we must be accountable to God in terms of knowing where we are.

Furthermore, when we update our goals we take several factors into consideration including what we've accomplished, new goals or events that have occurred, as well as modifications that need to be made. Some

goals will have to be moved to next year. Others may change altogether based on what God is doing. God is glorified when we follow what he has placed in our hearts. In Joshua 4:24 (KJV by paraphrased reference), it says that people of the earth could *see* the mighty hand of God that enabled Joshua to lead the Israelites through the Jordan. God had instructed Joshua, He also caused the waters of the Jordan to be dried up before Israel. God does the same with us. He places visions and instructions in our hearts. We make a plan and God helps us to achieve our (His) goals. Some of the ways He does this is by giving us wisdom, helping us identify opportunities and by moving obstacles.

We review and update our goals so we can see the progress we have made. Then, at the end of the year we (and others) can see the hand of God. And, we are ready to create a plan for the upcoming year. Okay, with that said, let's all quickly review our 2008 goals, modify our activities as needed, update the sheet, and keep moving forward! *ff*

Leadership Living, Inc.
Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO

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DIAMONDS



“You need to know that the promises of God are “Yea” and “Amen.” They are complete. What God is showing you, God wants you to possess. The problems are not there to keep you from possessing the promises of God. They are there to authenticate the validity of your right to have them. You only have a right to possess the promises when you prove you are willing to fight through the problems. “

Jakes, T.D. (quote from sermon) Confronting Your Problems



From a religious perspective, dogmas, doctrines, creeds and theological assertions frame these belief systems; to which we are indoctrinated.

Now whether something is classified as categorically “good” or “bad” depends on the individual system’s definition of the terms. But from a personal or kingdom perspective whether a thing is classed as “good” or “bad” depends on what your ultimate goals are (as it regards individual beliefs; as opposed to foundational truth).

Perhaps your goal is to be healthy and help others to do the same. It may be that you want to be happy and get through life with as little stress as possible. Or you may want to be affluent; or famous; or any host of other variations of these and other goals. Our goals may be as numerous and variant as there are hopeful people to espouse them. Whatever may be our goals; our beliefs will drive their accomplishment. You may also be certain that there is at least one system of belief to shape your decision-making along those lines.

For those of us who are followers of Christ, we have been given our “marching orders,” in this regard.

Romans 12, teaches us that we are not to be conformed to the systems of beliefs inculcated by the world; or to take on this worldview. Instead we are directed to be transformed, or changed by renewing our minds...

Renewing ... the ... mind? How exactly?

We are commanded to be transformed by changing (or exchanging) our systems of belief. Interesting hah? What’s that you ask? Am I attempting to tell you that we can change our mind and thereby transform our character? I can probably show you better than I can tell you.

If we support and accommodate systems of belief, routines or rituals that give life to the desires & activities of the flesh, we will die. This is portrayed in God’s discussions with Israel in Deuteronomy 28:15-68. In that same conversation, however, we learn that if we forsake and replace those erroneous systems of belief with truth (as defined by the scriptures), our behavior changes and we will live (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

The first erroneous belief that we ought to identify, and replace with truth, is the “Me First” mindset. The

tentacles of this monster are everywhere, in all of its various modifications and expressions. We rarely recognize it as such, because we've been socialized into accepting it, *prima facie*. The "me first" or "looking out for #1" mantras have roots in the sin of selfishness; which is the "father" of all sin. And it is the arch enemy of the first and greatest commandment of God. The Lord commands (Matt. 22:27-40; Ex. 20:3 KJV by ref.) that we are to "... love the Lord first and foremost;" and that all of our decisions be made with deference to Him and with His preeminence in mind. Think about it for one moment. Do we do that? Be honest. We make our decisions based on "What's best for me and mine?" "What do I like or dislike?" "What are my preferences?"

And many of us (right now) are asking what's wrong with those considerations in our decision-making? The question itself is just an example of how ingrained is this erroneous mindset. But to your question, I'd say, "Nothing is wrong with these considerations, if Jesus is **not** your Lord." But if He is, then He ought to have the preeminence in your thoughts and in your decisions, among other things (ref. Col. 1:17-18 KJV). A kingdom is not a democracy. The Kingdom of God certainly is not. The Kingdom of God is a Monarchy ["mono" meaning alone or single; the adjective "arch" representing leader; supreme of its kind.] In God's Kingdom, He is the sole Supreme Ruler. He is the Executive, Legislative and Judicial governing entity. Citizens of a kingdom, make decisions with consideration for the preference of the King. Why? Because they understand that their life and livelihood flows out of the throne. It just so happens, that this leads us to our next line of erroneous thinking.

Another erroneous mindset that needs to be replaced with truth is that of choosing our livelihood. We are bated to choose fields of work or endeavor based on what will generate the most income. If this is how you are making your decisions for your endeavors, please read Matthew 6:31-34 (KJV). Don't let your thoughts be consumed with how to make a living; what you will eat or what you will wear; for this is the mindset of those who are conformed to this world. But for those who are transformed by the renewing of their minds, they seek to have the principles of the kingdom of God govern their hearts and their lives. And all of "these things" or "estas cosas" are given to them as "door prizes." We don't have to "work for them." As we attend to the things

of God; He attends to our needs. How's that for a trade off? I can't even factor the return on that type of investment.

These, and many other, types of erroneous mindsets; belief systems and worldviews proliferate throughout our environments. This list could go on for almost an eternity. Of course, we wouldn't think of having you sit through that, seeing that you are so gracious to have come this far with us (smile).

But what we will do is admonish you to revisit the scriptures with a slightly different perspective. Go there, looking to see what the Lord has commanded us regarding:

- What to do (Eccl. 12:13; Col. 3:2; 12-17; Eph. 4:23-32 KJV),
- What not to do (1 John 2:15-17; Ps. 37:1-11 KJV)
- What to think and know (Phil. 4:8; 1 Cor. 3:18-19 KJV)
- How to deal with conflict (2 Cor. 4:17-18; Rom. 8:18 KJV)
- What type of relationship we are to have with this world (James 4:4; Ps. 50:12b; Mk. 8:36; 16:15 KJV)

That being said how are we to be transformed by the renewing of our minds? We are to replace our old mindsets and belief systems, with these truths thereby aligning ourselves with the Word of God.

Okay, let's see ... we ... are ... to ... be ... transformed. Why?

One reason we need to be transformed is because (for most of us) we cannot accomplish God's purpose for our lives (or for the kingdom) from where we are now. We cannot evangelize the nations, with what we know and how we live (Matt. 28:19 KJV). Without being transformed, we cannot be living examples of the type of lifestyle, the type of mindset or system of beliefs representative of what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:2b KJV). And the list of reasons goes on.

Okay, okay ... but transformed into what?

"Transformed into what," you ask? Well let's see. In the beginning God created man in His image and after His likeness (Gen. 1:26 KJV). God is a triune Being, consisting of Father, Son (Word), and Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7 KJV). Man is a tri-partite being consisting of spirit, soul and body. Like Father, like son. This was

the original intention of God’s creation efforts with mankind. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

Now, the ultimate intention of God’s re-creative (or redemptive) efforts concerning mankind is that we be transformed, or conformed, into the image of His Son. Here we have the answer to the age-old curiosity, “What is the purpose and meaning of life?” Romans 8:29 (KJV) tells us that God determined before the creation of man that we should ultimately be conformed into the image of His Son. “Why,” you ask; because Jesus is the most perfect representation of the Godhead in all of existence. And in order to commune with God; in order to have an intimate relationship with God we must be like Him. The way to be like Him is to be like Christ, He is our example. It pleased God that in Jesus Christ the complete likeness and authority of the triune God should be represented in the earth (Col. 1:19; 2:9 KJV).

In the words of our Lord, “it is enough for the disciple to be like his master, and the servant like his lord.” (Matt.10:25 KJV paraphrased).

Now we recognize and respect that this decision is completely up to you. But know that this day the Lord has set before you: LIFE and DEATH. Choose LIFE ... please. (Deut. 30: 19-20 KJV). <KJV>

JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Christ-likeness IS Relationship

By David L. White

All scripture is paraphrased from KJV unless otherwise noted.

I pray that God opens the eyes and hearts of those reading this, as He continues to open my eyes. We were having a conversation about the things of God, when my mentor was referencing God’s purpose for our lives. During that conversation, I finished her statement off with a correlation between “Christ-likeness and Relationship.” My mentor thought I was saying essentially that Christ-likeness has a positive effect on our relationships. While that is true, this is not what the Lord had just said to me. Attempting to comprehend; it was just at this point that I saw what God was really saying to me. He said, “Christ-likeness IS relationship!” This expression of the statement is not meant to imply that Christ-likeness is our only way to having a relationship with God, even though that’s true. The statement “Christ-likeness IS relationship,” says so much more.

If I paraphrase John 14:6, it says “Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: no man can come to the Father, except through Jesus Christ.” Do this with me; let’s read the *message in the verse* by reading the verse into the message. It sounds like this.

Christ is the way to relationship, the truth of relationship, and the life of relationship: no man has a relationship with the Father, without Christ.

Christ goes on to say (in the 7th verse) that “if you had known me, you would have known my Father.” This is to say if we have a right relationship with Christ; we will have a right relationship with the Father. Why does he say this? Here are three reasons why:

1. Because Christ’s **life** enables us to have relationship with God. Genesis 3:6 represents the death of man's relationship with God in Adam. Christ was sent to restore life to relationship between man and God. In John (10:10) Jesus says, “I am come that you might have life...”

JEWELS



I want to make you a promise: Something supernatural happens when you pray an hour a day. It does not happen overnight, but slowly, almost imperceptibly, the *desire* to pray becomes firmly planted in the soil of your heart by the Spirit of God. This desire crowds out the weeds of apathy and neglect, and matures into the *discipline* to pray. Then one day you discover that prayer is no longer just a duty or drudgery; instead, the discipline of prayer has borne the fruit of delight. You find yourself eagerly longing for your daily time with God. The supernatural work of prayer continues and begins to possess and reshape every area of your life.

Lea, Larry (1987) *Could You Not Tarry One Hour* Creation House (p6)



2. Because Christ has the only **true** relationship with God. Man cannot come any closer in relationship with God until he realizes the truth of his position without God. If man does not realize that he is completely lost without God; he cannot come into a true relationship with God. Even after we accept Christ as our Savior; and restorer of life to our relationship with God, we cannot know the way of relationship until we accept truth. What truth? All of the truths that God has revealed about Christ (and through Christ) in His word. As we learn them, and begin to govern our lives by these truths, we are being conformed into the image of Christ; this establishes our relationship with God. From the truths represented in God's interactions with Adam, to the truths revealed by God's interaction with Christ, these all represent the truth of the God's relationship with man. These all represent man's death in Adam and man's abundant life in Christ; as it is necessary to acknowledge the former before accepting the latter.

3. Because Christ is the only **way** to the Father, we have no way to relate to, or gain access to, the Father but by Christ. Because of our filthiness, wickedness, wretchedness, sinfulness, iniquity, and unfeigned depravity; we could *never* otherwise relate to a Holy, Righteous, Loving, Just, Powerful, Sovereign, Perfect God.

These are three explanations of why Christ says "no man can come to the Father...but by me."

Recognize, though, that I listed them opposite the way they are listed in the verse. We can consider the order used above, as indicative of how the process can occur in our lives.

Put another way, Christ-likeness represents the whole of all right relationships. As we are conformed in the image of Christ, we begin to have a right relationship with God. We are able to have a right relationship with our environment. We have a right relationship with our neighbor and with our self.

Remember, Christ-likeness **IS** relationship. <KCN>



A Journey to Intimacy

Understanding His Purpose

The Journey Takes a Sharp Right Turn

How long have I been alive? Twenty....twenty-five ... thirty for Oh, never mind, that's too many numbers.

After all of these years, it is just now settling on me, what is God's purpose for *my* life. I'd heard it, but did not perceive it with this degree of clarity. Okay ... okay ... I admit it; this truth was completely lost on me.

But no more ...

I see now that I am to be transformed into the image of Christ. Wow, what a concept. All of God's efforts, yesterday, today and tomorrow are for the sole purpose of creating in me the likeness of His Son, my Lord Jesus Christ.

I don't mind saying that I am overwhelmed. I see it now....this is the path to true intimacy.

People can be intimate with other people; and to some degree cats with cats, and birds with birds. Like for like. But man cannot reach a certain level of intimacy with God until he has been conformed into the image of Christ. No, I'm not saying that we cannot talk with God, and sometimes hear from Him, otherwise.

But if we look at our relationship with God and then look at Jesus' relationship with God ... they are worlds apart. Correction, make that 'light years' apart. But it doesn't have to be that way. I am so very excited. I feel as if I've been given a blank check, with which to fulfill my life's purpose and to do the work of the kingdom. Oh my Lord!!!! Words fail.

I mean, I would hear Jesus say things like:

- "Father I know that you do *always* hear me." At the grave of Lazarus. (John 11: 41c-42a KJV)
He has authority with God.

- “Peace, be still.” He says to the storm. (Mark 4:39; see also 6:48 KJV)
He has authority over the elements.
- “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit.” (Mark 5: 8 KJV)
He has authority over the enemy.
- If you have faith as the grain of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain be removed ... and it will be done (Mark 11:23 KJV paraphrased). [The term “mountains” in this context represents the spiritual authority of the enemy. Example, in Israel’s day the nations built their groves and the temples to their idols in the high places (or mountains) of their lands. It was to exemplify the exalted position the people had given to the idol gods. The enemy never stops trying to be like our God. Pity, such a futile effort.]
He has environmental and situational authority.

I would read that Jesus had done, or said, these things and I would muse within myself, what does Jesus know? I want to know, I must know. I am always enamored with Jesus’ confidence; His power to heal; His ability to route the enemy; His ability to create the situations he needed to fulfill his purpose. I want to know what He knows.

Now I can know. As I am transformed into the image of Christ, I come into his treasury of knowledge, wisdom and authority. And you can too.

And so, the journey takes a sharp RIGHT turn. Will you go with me?

The Lord’s grace is amazing; but He, Himself, is even more Amazing!!  *KJV* 

JoAnn C. White, SMHG

❧ SUMMARY ❧



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