

Our Transformation (*metamorphosis*)

- *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 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. Rom 12:1-2*

Steps to Transform (*metamorphosis*)

- Request *I beseech you therefore, brethren,*
- Motivation *by the mercies of God,*
- Result *present your bodies a living sacrifice,*
- End *do not be conformed to this world,*
- Goal *be transformed*
- Means *by the renewing of your mind,*
- Method *prove the good acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:*

The Transformation of the Apostles

- Where they started was not where Jesus needed them to be
- *disputed one with another on the way, who (was) the greatest.* 35 And he sat down, and called the twelve; and he saith unto them, *If any man would be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all.* Mk 9:34-35
- There needed to be a transformation: The greatest must become service and not faction and empty conceit.
- Where Jesus needs all of us to be – transformed:
- *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.* 4 Let each of you *look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.* Phil 2:3-4
- This was the transformation Jesus looks for in all of us

The Complete Transformation

- From (The Old Man):
- Seeking to Prove we are the greatest.
- Wanting to be served by others
- Getting the best for ourselves
- To (The New Man):
- Remove all selfish ambition and conceit
- Gain lowliness of mind
- Esteem others better than yourself
- Concerned not only for our own interests
- Equally concerned for the interests of others

The Complete Transformation

- *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 1Peter 5:5-7*
- This is a long journey that will take the rest of our lives. It will take great motivation

Some Transformations Easier than Others

- There is a need for great Motivation and Instruction:
- *Therefore if there is any exhortation encouragement in Christ, if any comfort consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection tender mercy and compassion sympathy 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Phil 2:1-2*

Motivations

- Any exhortation/encouragement in Christ
- Any comfort / consolation of love
- Any fellowship of the Spirit
- Any affection/tender mercy
- Any compassion / sympathy
- Fulfill my joy

How To Use the Motivations

- Whenever we find it difficult to give up our own interests for the interests of others:
- Balance it against all the blessings we have in Christ

Exhortation / Encouragement in Christ

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, Eph 1:3-4*
- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor 5:17-18*

How To Use the Motivations

- Whenever we find it difficult to give up our own interests for the interests of others:
- Balance it against all the blessings we have in Christ
- Carefully consider the full scope of Love in I Cor 13:

Consolations (Persuasions of Love)

- *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. 1Cor 13:4-8*

How To Use the Motivations

- Whenever we find it difficult to give up our own interests for the interests of others:
- Balance it against all the blessings we have in Christ
- Carefully consider the full scope of Love in I Cor 13:
- Walking by the Spirit and reveal His fruits.

Fellowship of the Spirit

- *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*
- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Gal 5:22-26*

How To Use the Motivations

- Whenever we find it difficult to give up our own interests for the interests of others:
- Balance it against all the blessings we have in Christ
- Carefully consider the full scope of Love in I Cor 13:
- Walking by the Spirit and reveal His fruits.
- Simply feeling sorry for them with pity.

Tender Mercy and Compassion

- *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col 3:12-15*

How To Use the Motivations

- Whenever we find it difficult to give up our own interests for the interests of others:
- Balance it against all the blessings we have in Christ
- Carefully consider the full scope of Love in I Cor 13:
- Walking by the Spirit and reveal His fruits.
- Simply feeling sorry for them with pity.
- Remembering it was Paul's greatest hope and he would be filled with joy if we do.

Make Full My Joy

- *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Phil 3:12-18*

A Transformation

- *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Phil 2:1-4*

The Complete Transformation

- *Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, Phil 2:5-11*
- When we have the mind of Christ in all our interactions with others we will manifest the true transformation from the old man to the new.