

True Transformation

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, [...] that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God” (Philippians 1:27-28).

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Those who are truly God’s people are united in dedication to a common goal: the cause of the right, which is true transformation. These people are the “salt and light” of the earth—the preservative that keeps the whole world system from going bad, and the light that illuminates the darkness around them. Christ’s “change agents” are the ambassadors of His kingdom (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20)—the ones called out from the mindset of the world system. In that sense they are unique. And their membership is universal.

These people realize: that attitude is what matters and what determines their actions in everything they do, throughout their lives, no matter how small those actions are or how unnoticed by the rest of the world. God’s people can glorify Him by their very existence. The way they do so is when their every action, indeed, their every thought, gives Him pleasure when it is in conformity to His will, when it comports with His mindset; this is the meaning of *Be perfect, even as the Father in heaven is perfect*.

God’s people love life vigorously (since it is a gift from God). Though His people enjoy life, they make wisdom their highest priority. Thus they are not ultimately tempted by money or power or position or any other temporal gain, if obtaining such is done in a way not in accordance with God’s will (though such things are not bad in themselves and can be good if used for God’s purposes and if gained according to His principles). Such people live a life distinct from the world’s thought pattern—people truly set apart. And such people always want to be that way, for they know it is their strength. It is a strength that lets them stand on God’s truth alone. They should think often to themselves, *May I never be any different*. That’s why they

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*ultimately* aren't tempted by things that promise a temporary thrill—for mere excitement is not what they crave, but deep, abiding reality.

Such people risk everything on God's personality—the certainty of it, rock-solid, as revealed in His infallible Word. Metaphorically speaking, they have put all their eggs in God's basket. And nothing can take away from them their high mission, their calling, and their destiny. Existing for the sake of letting God see all their thoughts and actions, everything that crosses their minds, in the desire that it pleases Him: that is truly living in front of Him, in full view of His gaze. They are happy and secure in the knowledge that at least one of His creations is on earth doing that, and that is the justification for their lives. Though of course, they constantly wish they could do more, lots more—like sharing and cooperating with Jesus' goal of renewing all of creation and restoring His people to moral and physical perfection. And they can work toward that goal in their own lives, in whatever capacity God has placed them. They do little or much, but at least they do something in furtherance of His dream. And in doing so, they should know they are working *together*. Lesser matters, petty jealousies and arcane disputes, should take a distant seat and a far lower place in light of this consideration. For there is *one* body, and one baptism into one Lord Jesus Christ, whose Holy Spirit enlightens His people and holds them together in a common bond, and helps reveal God's mindset to them as they read God's Word (see Ephesians 4:4-6). There should be one thought pattern in common: the attitude of thinking like Christ, of working together to achieve His ultimate goal, and of realizing that what is important is that God's people are allies and fellow agents together, employed by one Commander-in-Chief in one agency.

A Christian should be dedicated to the *whole* group. Christians should think first of God's interests, of the promotion of His kingdom, of His whole sin-fighting organization. Agents can't work for the interests and goals of the whole group and its Boss when they are busy fighting each other over trivial, subordinate, or overly speculative matters. Like inter-office infighting between different offices in an organization, looking out first for one's own "party" interest may result in confusion and division between genuine followers of Christ, thus retarding the advancement of His kingdom. Instead, greater heed should be paid to the following verse: "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well-being*" (1 Corinthians 10:23-24). Dedication to *God's* interests (above one's own) should be top priority; to do such is to put God's kingdom and His righteousness first. Contending

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for the truth in love, including seeking to understand fairly the other person's point of view, should be a matter of discerning the correct emphasis to place on each truth—that is, the same emphasis and tone that the *Bible* puts on that truth, without speculatively going beyond what is written, with the ultimate goal being: “Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well being*”.

God's people know, that even though they are flawed because sinful, there is a higher vision for humanity: God's goal of moral perfection through renewal by His truth, as found in His Word. Such people feel that if they are to be worthy members of God's group of agents, they have to at least learn to think like Him. They want there to be as little disconnect as possible between their current life on earth and their future life in eternity. They want there to be no difference (or as little difference as is humanly possible) between the way they are thinking now and the way they'll think then. Or in other words, for their temporal viewpoint here on earth to match up with, and be the same as, their eternal viewpoint in the future.

Of course, such people strive to be extraordinary. They have to be. The constant goal they should keep in mind is: to act like one of God's people should. So long as they do that—no matter what anyone else thinks about them—at least God's people know they can walk down the street with their heads held high because God is pleased with their thoughts and actions. At least their own Creator knows what they are really like, inside. The goal of their lives is to love and please their Creator. And that's what really matters. Such people are never alone—because they have their Creator, the Head of their group, their ultimate Boss. And they have a “cloud of witnesses” (see Hebrews 12:1-4), those in heaven, whose very history envelops them and who came before them, seeking the same goal. One day, God's group of people will all be together, in the great resurrection. Then they will know each other, and they will see the finalization of their dream, which they share with the Creator—the goal of seeing God's perfect moral character reflected in His people, and His will be done on earth as well as in Heaven.

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