

**Date** : 15 December 2024  
**Theme** : Making your election sure  
**Topic** : What does a transformed life look like?  
**Key Passage** : *Romans 12 & 13*  
**Key Verse** : ...*Let love be without hypocrisy... Romans 12:9*

## Introduction

*Romans* Chapters 1 – 11 explain how God's righteousness is imparted to sinful men through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. As redemption signifies freedom from sin, God's righteousness is not merely a static pronouncement. It represents the unleashing of His power, in an active way, for us to be transformed by the renewal of our minds; so that, by...

- His grace, we belong to His Body (not self).
- His gifts, we serve Him / His church ...*each member belongs to all the others... Romans 12:5*  
God's love for us is seen in the privileges and provisions He has prepared for our inheritance as heirs and joint-heirs with Christ.  
Hence, our destiny is to conform to Jesus' image.

We surrender our bodies to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, our minds and wills renewed. The clothing of ourselves in Jesus, His grace, mercy and love bestowed upon us, bids us to live worthwhile lives in conformity to our risen Christ.

What is it like to conform to the image of His Son? What would this transformation look like?

5 areas of Transformation in our relationships.

### 1. Transformed attitude toward God.

God wants to work with His children to develop the character of Christ in us.

- Serve Him fervently *Romans 12:11*
- Hope in Him joyfully *Romans 12:12*
- Suffer affliction patiently *Romans 12:12*
- Pray faithfully *Romans 12:12*

### 2. Transformed attitude toward fellow believers

These life-style directions are possible only because of God's grace to His people.

We seek to live at peace with all men, even blessing our persecutors.

a) Love the brethren sincerely *Romans 12:9, 11*

- Honour one another in brotherly love *Romans 12:10*
- Practise hospitality cheerfully *Romans 12:13*
- Empathize sympathetically *Romans 12:15*
- Associate with the lowly *Romans 12:16*
- Live harmoniously *Romans 12:18*

b) Handle differences in doubtful matters without passing judgment *Romans 14:1*

### 3. Transformed attitude toward governmental authority

God has instituted governmental authority to bear the sword as His agents and to restrain, through coercive force, those who commit injustice against others.

a) Be subject to their authority *Romans 13:1*. Why?

- God has appointed them as His agents.
- God judges the rebellious through them. *Romans 13:2*

- God assigned them to execute punishment for wrongdoing. *Romans 13:4*
- We are to submit for conscience sake. *Romans 13:5*

b) How? example: God commanded Israel to submit to their enemies, the Babylonians, but He never stopped watching over them. *Jeremiah 29:10*

- They had to pay taxes willingly, for 70 years.
- Respect and honour the offices of Babylonians authority.

c) Are there limits to submission?

example: Daniel / Joseph: Obeyed their conscience (though landed themselves in prison).

- What did Jesus say about taxes? about worship?

#### 4. Transformed attitude toward our neighbours

Christians are to live lives that draw others to Jesus by fulfilling the law of love. We are to live extraordinary lives that shine out the reality of Christ in us.

a) Repay all debts (do not have outstanding debts *Romans 13:8*)

Love is a debt we owe to fellow believers and neighbours all the time *Romans 13:10*.

b) Love your neighbour as spelt out in the Great Commandment. *Romans 13:9*

(Do no harm to a neighbour *Romans 13:10*).

God's commandments are not just guidelines, they are great love lines for our relationships.

#### 5. Transformed attitude for yourself.

*Romans 13:11* says to wake up from our slumber.

Begin the new year 2025 with a call from the Lord (to be waken from our sleep) to walk in alignment with God's Kingdom and accomplish our Kingdom assignment.

a) Awareness of the time and seasons, know...

- What is your season of life?
- What is the appropriate time for each purpose (timeliness)? *Ecclesiastes 3*
- How are world events unfolding as they relate to Bible prophecy?

b) What is the high time to prepare for His coming?

- Wake up (from slumber. Story of 10 virgins).
- Take off (put aside sinful habits, make no provision for sin).
- Put on the Lord Jesus (shine as lights in the world so that Jesus be glorified).

#### Application:

- Choose any 2 categories of transformation below. What change in attitude has the Holy Spirit highlighted to you?

Transformed attitude toward God  
I intend to change.....

Transformed attitude toward fellow believers  
I intend to change.....

Transformed attitude toward governmental authority  
I intend to change.....

Transformed attitude toward our neighbours  
I intend to change.....

Transformed attitude toward myself  
I intend to change.....