

## God Wants Us To Realize His Goal For Us

By Roelf L. Ruffner

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

The Christian life should be a “transformed” life. In context the apostle Paul wrote this command to Christians who lived in a thoroughly pagan society: idolatry and concurrent sexual immorality were rampant; life was cheap, and ethics were bought and sold to the highest bidder. For most Gentile Christians life changed radically when they were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:6). But the transformed life of the Christian is not merely “putting lipstick on a pig.” Too many today claim to be transformed and feign an undying “love of the Lord” but their untransformed lives confess otherwise.

The Christian’s body is to be a “living sacrifice” (Rom.12:1) for the whole world to see. Our offering of this sacrifice upon the altar of daily living is to “prove” (Rom. 12:2) what God wants out of restored human beings: “that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” In essence, our bodies should show an unbelieving world that we are new people outwardly as well as inwardly. “That ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit; and that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth” (Eph.4:22-24 ASV). That “new man” should be a walking billboard for the gospel, especially for sinners who never crack the pages of the Holy Bible yet see us day by day.

The reason for this required physical sacrifice is Christ’s sacrifice for my sins. As my Savior He was the first to sacrifice His body so I might be free to follow His example. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11,12).

Dear Christian, is this your goal? How is your sacrifice? Is it pleasing to God/ in harmony with His word? If not, repent this very hour and leave all those things that hinder you at the foot of the cross. The obvious come to mind: immodest clothing, drug abuse, the beer can, the cigarette, snuff, etc. What about uncontrolled weight, slovenliness in appearance and personal grooming? “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Cor. 6:19). The whole world is watching our sacrifice and so is the Lord (cf. Mal. 1:6-8; Mark 12:41-44).

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

*“Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind”* by Frederick C. Maker

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dear\\_Lord\\_and\\_Father\\_of\\_Mankind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dear_Lord_and_Father_of_Mankind) as of June 24, 2015.