

Our Transformation

Introduction

1. **In Mark, chapter 12, The Sadducees had just asked Jesus a question concerning the resurrection in verses 18-23. Jesus answers their question in verses 24-27.**
2. **Then in verse 28, one of the scribes comes to Jesus, having heard them reasoning together and perceiving that Jesus had answered them well, asked Jesus “*which is the first commandment of all?*” Here is his answer:**

Mark 12:29-31 “The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 'And you shall love the LORD your God with **all your heart**, with **all your soul**, with **all your mind**, and with **all your strength**.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor **as yourself**.' ***There is no other commandment greater than these.***”

3. **We need to understand as this scribe did in verses 32-33 that this is truly the understanding that each and EVERY Christian needs to possess in order to ensure a life of righteousness before God. Paul wrote:**

Titus 2:12-13 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

- A. **It is easy to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts when we truly love the Lord with every ounce of our being. Jesus said:**

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

4. **We are to be a people that has been transformed because of our love for God!**

Living Sacrifices To God

1. Paul wrote:

Rom 12:1-2 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**. 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.

- A. Let us understand that God does not want half a sacrifice, nor does He want a dead sacrifice — He wants a full fledged living sacrifice! Jesus gave His ALL for us and He expects us to give our ALL for Him.**

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

- B. Our bodies are to be holy and acceptable to Him as Jesus was proven to be Holy and acceptable as the perfect sacrifice. Peter wrote:**

1 Peter 1:15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- C. We are a people transformed from our old dead life of sin to a new life of service to God and to one another.**
Romans 6:4-13

Our Transformation Over Fleshly Desires

- 1. When we keep at the forefront of our thoughts the two greatest commandments and abide in them constantly and consistently then we will not fall prey to fleshly desires.**
 - A. These fleshly desires called works of the flesh are dangerous - they are sinful and have absolutely no place for the Christian. One cannot claim to be in a Mark 12:30-31 relationship with God and also be engaged in the works of the flesh.**

Galatians 5:19-22

- 2. Those who abide in the sincere love of the Lord will develop “fruits of the Spirit”**

Galatians 5:22-23.

Our Transformation Over Apathy and Unfaithfulness

1. Apathy and Unfaithfulness will have no place in the Christian life for those that are truly keeping these first two commandments **Hebrews 10:22-26**

- A. Christians who have become apathetic to the cause of Christ and service toward one another do not fully love the Lord.**
- B. Christians who make excuses for not attending all the services of the local church do not fully love the Lord.**
- C. Christian men and women who are absent from the services more than they are here should not be used as Bible class teachers in the local church because their example shows that they do not fully love the Lord.**
- D. Christian men that have shown that they are unfaithful in their attendance and/or engage in sin have announced by their actions that they do not fully love the Lord. Therefore, they should not lead prayers, singing, or wait on the Lord's table.**
 - 1) When men are used in leadership positions of the local church that have shown by their example that they are not dedicated to the Lord's service, it sets a bad example for other adults and children.**
 - 2) The Lord wants individuals to serve Him that are:**

1 Cor 15:58.....steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

2. When others or anything takes precedence in our service to God then we simply are not worthy!

Matthew 10:32-39

3. Again, those that abide in the sincere love of God will add characteristics to their life that ensure that they will not fall.

2 Peter 1:5-10

Bear Fruits Worthy of Repentance

1. **Brethren, let's not deceive ourselves. We cannot read anywhere in the Bible where God is going to accept a half-committed disciple.**
 - A. **Half-committed disciples are a dime a dozen and will have no place in heaven.**
2. **God demands and will only accept fully committed disciples.**
 - A. **Brethren, we can know who the committed and the uncommitted are. God certainly knows and I believe we can know also. Paul wrote:**

1 Tim 4:12-16 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in **word**, in **conduct**, in **love**, in **spirit**, in **faith**, in **purity**. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself **entirely** to them, **that your progress may be evident to all**. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. **Continue in them**, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

3. **When we continue in the doctrine of Christ, loving the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, caring for our brethren, uplifting and edifying them, then our progress will be evident showing**

FAITHFULNESS

STEADFASTNESS

FRUITFULNESS

Conclusion

- 1. **I am not telling anything new.**
 - A. **I am simply trying to get each and every one of us to think about our soul’s condition as God really sees it.**
 - B. **We are either for Him or against Him. Jesus said:**

Matt 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

- 2. **When we are truly transformed to serve Jesus in our totality, then there will be no place for fleshly desires, apathy, unfaithfulness, or excuses of any kind.**
 - A. **May we all be determined now to serve our Savior with the same fervor that He exemplified when He died for you and me!**
 - B. **How can we sing “Oh how I love Jesus” and then not be determined to serve Him in all aspects of our life?**
 - 1) **We should be so thankful that Jesus was committed to go to the cross to suffer and die so that we might live.**
 - a. **He was totally committed ----- Are we?**

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Richard Thetford, September 2001 – Re-accomplished February 2007