

Conformed or Transformed?; 1 Peter 1:13-19

I. To Be Conformed

A. Basic Training

1. Break you down to be part of a team
2. You all look alike (even if you came into basic with a military haircut, you had to get another one with all of your classmates)
3. You all act alike
4. You all say the same things
5. "Pickles" and "Canned Pickles"

B. You are to conform to the military way of life and thinking

C. Many have been discharged under the charge of "Failure to Adapt to Military Life"

D. To conform is to change your actions and thinking (self) to match a certain idea or philosophy

E. To be transformed is to release your old self and become something totally new and different

F. Romans 12:2; Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

II. Prepare for Action

A. A new way of thinking

B. A decisive personal choice... no wavering back and forth, make a choice!

C. "Gird up the loins of your mind"

1. Ephesians 4:17–24; ¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

2. "Put on the whole armor of God" Ephesians 4:11

D. A Sober Mind

1. Drunkenness - you lose the ability to make sound decisions, your physical and mental reaction time is slowed way down
2. There are many programs out there designed to show us the results of drinking or mitigate the effects
 - a) Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) (AADD)
 - b) Shattered Dreams
 - c) Ride now and pay later cabs
 - d) Designated Driver (they normally get free sodas from the bar)
3. Peter is not calling for sobriety from alcohol

- a) He wants us to maintain the ability to make sound decisions based on our transformation, not based on conformation to this world
- b) 1 Thessalonians 5:6–11; ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

E. We can either be conformed to this world or transformed into the likeness of Christ

III. Be Holy

A. We are called to holiness.

1. God's will has always been that His children reflect His character.
2. The goal of Christianity is not only heaven when we die, but Christlikeness now
 - a) 2 Corinthians 7:1; Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.
 - b) Titus 2:14; who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
3. Jesus' task was not only remission of sin, but the restoration of the image of God in fallen mankind.
4. Remember the shocking words of Jesus in Matt. 5:20 and 48! Always be careful of "what's-in-it-for-me" Christianity. We are saved to serve.
5. We are called to holiness in no uncertain terms.
6. "God have mercy on a church trapped by prosperity, materialism, and health/wealth preaching!" Bob Utley; *The Gospel According to Peter*

B. You shall be holy

1. This is a quote from Leviticus 11:44–45; 19:2; 20:7, 26.
2. This is not a new requirement, but a repeated requirement
3. Matthew 5:48; **You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**
4. Holiness in the Old Testament sense was not sinlessness, but an obedience to the covenant requirements of God
5. Deuteronomy 28:1; "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

C. We are called to "Christ-likeness," to be transformed from our old selves into the image of His Beloved Son

D. 2 Corinthians 3:12–18; ¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the

veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

IV. Futile Ways

A. Any other way other than Jesus is futile

1. Acts 14:15; "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:17; And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

B. Anything other than transformation into "Christ-likeness" is futile

C. We have been ransomed

1. We watch all kinds of movies and TV shows that give us the concept of a ransom

2. But most of the time, in order for the good guy to win, the ransom is never paid and the person is freed anyway

3. Piracy in Africa

a) We read about the pirates and the few cases where the pirates are repelled, captured, or killed

b) In 2011, 28 vessels were released by pirates in Somalia for somewhere around 80-130 million dollars according to the Maritime Bulletin

4. This is the picture of our ransom

5. We were held captive by our futile ways (pirates), but Jesus stepped in and provided and paid our ransom

D. The Precious blood

1. Precious - very costly

2. The average ransom of the ocean vessels was around 4.8 million dollars, the highest being 13.5 million dollars

3. Our ransom is much higher than that, and really cannot be compared to dollars

4. Imagine having anything and everything you ever wanted

5. Then voluntarily giving it all up to have absolutely nothing, not even a place to lay your head

a) Matthew 8:20; And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

6. Imagine going from the Creator of the universe to being killed by those you created

7. "If That isn't Love" #379 - He left the splendor of Heaven knowing his destiny was the lonely hill of Golgotha there to lay down His life for me. If that isn't love...

E. Jesus' precious blood is worth so much more than any monetary amount, yet we strive to get those dollars a lot harder than we strive to be Christlike

V. Conformed or Transformed?

A. Are we prepared to be transformed from our old selves to new creatures in Christ?

B. Are we striving to be holy as God is holy?

C. Have we been ransomed by Christ's blood?