

Transformation Requires Renewal

Out With The Old, In With The New

Introduction:

- A. To **renew** is “to begin or take up again; to restore to a former state; to replenish, revive or reestablish; to make new. Renewal is Step #3 toward real transformation.
 - 1. God has blessed me with the ability to **discern** and expects me to use that ability (*Eph 5:17*).
 - 2. Having discerned God’s will for my life, I must **adopt** his way of thinking as my own (*Col 3:2*).
 - a. What is the end goal of my God-given ability to discern and adopt? (*Rom 11:36*).
 - b. **Know** God > **Love** God > **Obey** God > **Show** God.
- B. A God-centered, Christ-saturated, Spirit-led life requires **discernment, adoption and renewal**.

I. Continuing in the context of *Colossians*

- A. “If then...seek the things that are above...**set your MINDS** on things that are above” (3:1-4).
- B. We regularly set our DVRs and our alarm clocks. God expects us to first set our minds.
 - 1. **Why?** “You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (3:3).
 - 2. **How?** “God made you alive together with Christ” (2:11-14).
 - a. Paul’s words to the Colossians harmonize with what he told Titus in *Titus 2:11-3:7*.
 - (1) **What is God’s will for my life?** Salvation, sanctification, sacrifice, and service.
 - (2) God’s will is to be declared so that men and women **adopt** his will as their own.
 - b. God saves us “**by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.**”
- C. By this regeneration and renewal, men and women are given a fresh spiritual start.
 - 1. The old sinful self is to be put off and a new self is to be put on (*Gal 2:20*).
 - 2. Now, the crucifixion of my old self of sin must translate into transformation of conduct.
 - a. We are **to be renewed** in the spirit of our minds (*Eph 4:17-24*).
 - b. We are to be transformed **by the renewal** of our minds (*Rom 12:1-2*).
 - c. We are **being renewed** in knowledge after the image of our creator (*Col 3:5-17*).
 - d. As children of God, our inner selves are **being renewed** day by day (*2 Cor 4:16*).

II. With the goal of transformation into the image of Christ, take some honest inventory

- A. What “old self” practices am I continuing to selfishly gratify?
- B. What aspects of discipleship have I been leaving undone?
- C. Where am I slipping into unholy conformity with the world?
- D. Where are the battle fronts of spiritual warfare in my life?
- E. What areas of my daily walk with Christ need special attention in 2011?

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew a right spirit** within me.” (*Psalm 51:10*)