

## **How Can I Be Transformed?**

**A sermon by Bob Young**

**Text: Romans 12-13, Romans 12:1-2**

### **Introduction**

The essence of the Christian life is daily sacrifice which results in holy living which brings glory to God. This is a transformed life, which demonstrates the will of God.

This Christian life, shared by the members of the body, allows the body to function holistically, accomplishing all of the purpose of God because of the varying talents and gifts which God has placed in the body.

This Christian life binds us together, and allows the body to touch the world.

There is an important connection or continuity demonstrated in the text. This practical section is ill-served by the chapter break between chapters 12 and 13. The overall topic is the mission of God. Notice the connection between 12:18-21 and 13:1-6, a connection we will study further.

### **I. The transformed life is reflected in my MINISTRY or SERVICE**

Not slothful (11), serving the Lord (11), helping others (13), extending hospitality (13), blessing others regardless (14).

Commit your self to a blessing and serving ministry for all, regardless. The ministry or service we render in the mission of God is unconditionally extended, even as Jesus' death was for the unworthy.

No Christian has the option of opting out of the ministry or service to which God has called him or her.

My ministry and service is the foundation upon which relationships are built. I serve in the body, I serve those outside the body.

Commit yourself to service, it is the essence of looking like Jesus.

### **II. The transformed life is reflected in my THINKING**

Evil and good (9), rejoicing (12), hopeful (12), patient (12), prayerfully dependent (12), rejoicing, weeping, supporting others (15), united in mind (16), not proud, not conceited, not self-wise (16).

Guard your thinking, for it is the essence of living life like Jesus.

### **III. The transformed life is reflected in my ATTITUDES**

Love (9), toward evil and good (9), brotherly love (10), honor (10), fervent in spirit (11).

Guard your attitude toward all.

Few areas speak more directly to our attitudes than how we deal with the past. In 12:17,19, leave vengeance to God.

### **IV. The transformed life is reflected in my PURPOSE/MISSION**

The text of 12:18-21 suggests we allow 2 things to shape us—God's commands and others' needs. Do not take on a misshapen mission.

Our mission should be the mission of God. We submit to him, and thus to others. We work within his will and his presence in this world.

This link is especially clear as we transition from chapter 12 to chapter 13.

### **V. The transformed life is reflected in my SUBMISSION to God's mission.**

13:1-6, let God and God's chosen representative(s) take vengeance

### **Conclusion**

13:11-14, be prepared