

I. Romans 12:1-13:7. Transformed living: Some Review...

A. A Christian is not just a moralistic person. He or she is... 1-2

1. A person who *has been transferred* from one realm of reality to another. Rom.1-11
 - a) Out of Adam and into Christ (Rom.5)
 - b) Out of Satan's grasp and into Christ's kingdom. Col.1:13
2. A person who *is being transformed* from the inside out by God personally. Rom.12-16
 - a) Becoming like Jesus Christ, God's Son.

B. Church is not just a religious club. 3-8

1. *It is a supernatural community in which the Lord is transforming us by combining our lives to accomplish his mission.*

C. Love is not just something soft to fall into. 9-21

1. *It is self-sacrificial and healing, dynamic and hard-working.*

D. Society is not just a human mistake. 13:1-7

1. *It is the venue in which God is redeeming people through the gospel.*
 - a) Where we are salt and light. (Matt.5:13-16)
2. *It is the environment of spiritual formation for us as Christians. 1 Pet.2:13-25*
 - a) Even when all attempts to produce justice fail, and we must endure injustice for a time, there is the certainty of God's hand in our lives.

II. Apprenticeship to Christ is not Irrelevant Spirituality, it is Tangibly Loving and Wide Awake. 13:8-14

A. Tangibly Loving to others. 8-10

1. It pulls its own weight whenever possible. 8

- a) 1 Thess. 4:11-12, 2 Thess. 3:6-15
- b) *Responsible living so as not to be needy, pull your weight in your society. Within reason of course.*

2. It fulfills the Law of Moses by living under the Law of Christ. 9-10

- a) The Torah is fulfilled in the Law of Christ. **Gal.6:2; 1 Cor.9:21** Fulfilled in the command to Love. Because Love requires avoiding hurting a neighbor under any circumstances. Lev. 19:18.
- b) The essence of Torah responsibility to others:
 - (1) You shall not commit adultery (7th)
 - (2) You shall not murder (6th)
 - (3) You shall not steal (8th)
 - (4) You shall not covet (10th)
 - (5) And any others ...

3. It treats others with the same grace as it treats the self. Lev.19:18

- a) Lev.19:18 is quoted some 7 times in the NT. We do cut ourselves a lot of slack most the time.

B. Wide Awake spiritually. 11-14

1. Not hypnotized by the world. 11. Gal.1:4

- a) Awakened from sleep. Hupnos = sleep
(1) Hypnotized by this age?

2. Looking forward to the Lord's return

- a) Time is short. "time" kairos = not chronological, but appropriate time.
 - (1) Like giving birth – it's not about what the clock says, but the progress of the pregnancy. Keep a bag packed and ready to go to the hospital?
- b) The Lord's return: Not immediate, but can happen any time.

3. Throwing off the deeds of darkness:

- a) Orgies and drunkenness.
 - (1) Komos = partying, especially with sexual overtones, often associated with substance abuse. NIV, ESV, orgies
 - (2) Methes = drunk (asotia = wastedness, Eph. 5:18)
- b) Sexual promiscuity and sensuality:
 - (1) Koite = sex = immorality
 - (2) aselgia = debauched, self-gratifying, indecent behavior
- c) Strife and Jealousy
 - (1) Strife, epidi = fighting, quarrels
 - (2) Jealousy = zeal for the self

4. Stepping into the armor of light.

- a) Putting on Christ = living in the reality of who you really are.
- b) Not budgeting for sin...no plans for flesh

III. The Spirit is clarifying at least five things in our redeemed hearts: (transforming our thinking)

- A. Christian love is not about sentimental feelings—It's about transformed attitude to others.
 1. An obligation to treat others with love. Don't let the absence of sentimental feelings stop you from treating others rightly.
 2. But also to discern darkness from light as we live lovingly. 12-14
- B. Christian Transformation is not about religious deeds, but about staying awake.
 1. When we are awake, certain things are automatic. (1 Thess.5:1-11)
 2. We see things instead of tripping over them or falling into them.
- C. Christian Alertness is not about end times speculation--it's about moral wisdom.
 1. When we think of the "end times" what comes to mind often is speculation about the rapture, the 2nd coming, the Anti-Christ etc.
 2. *I don't know when the Lord will return, but I know he will, and when he does, I want to be awake and doing what he wants.*
- D. Christian Wisdom is not about more rules—it's about deeper insight.
 1. Understanding that moral filth is the stuff of hell, Christians recoil from it. Right? **1 Cor. 6:9-11**
 2. **How can I tell if I'm being hypnotized?**
 - a) Interpersonal animosity?
 - (1) Absorption in interpersonal squabbles, anger.
 - b) Moral Slippage?
 - (1) Blurring the lines on moral behaviors.
 - c) Temporal Mindset. Hoping the Lord *doesn't* return yet – because you're not ready?
- E. Christian Insight is not about how holy we are—it's about how gracious the Lord is.
 1. *The Greatest Debt has been paid—by Him.* The great insight of the gospel is that the Lord has paid the ultimate debt on our behalf.
 2. *The Greatest Love has been shown—by Him.*
 - a) The Cross, where he took our blame...
 3. *The Greatest Righteousness has been bestowed—by Him.*
 - a) We don't have to live in the darkness because he has given us His righteousness as a free gift, to live in all the time.