

This year at Believers Church our theme has been “Transformed”. We are transformed by salvation and sanctification

**Salvation** – The moment we truly believe that God loved us so much He sent Jesus as the Christ to save us from our sins and we not only believe but we ask Jesus to forgive us and ask to receive Jesus as our **Savior**. At the moment of salvation our spirit man receives life! Made new, born again! As of that very moment if we were to die, we will go to heaven as a child of God. We are 100% saved. You can't get any more saved than that. All you did was believe, ask, and receive.

*But some say, “Well if that's the case why do I sometimes struggle with my old ways of my old sinful nature.”*

We learned that the answer to that question was that we are **triune beings**, we are **body, soul, and spirit**. Yes, at salvation our SPIRIT MAN is 100% saved, but our SOUL, which is, our mind, will, and emotions, must be transformed into the image of Christ.

*2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

Notice the wording “are being transformed”. Hence that leads us to this big biblical word “Sanctification”.

**Sanctification** - At the point of salvation our Soul transformation begins. The process begins! We begin to change. Our Spirit is now saying to our Soul, “Soul, get things lined up in accordance with the truth in the Word of God. Change your thinking. Be transformed.”

Your soul, your mind, will, and emotions are not totally correct yet, but the process has begun. We all may be transforming at different rates, but all of us are on this transformation path.

**Our Responsibility** - We have a responsibility in this process too. We are not to conform to the pattern or ways of this world.

*Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

- We as believers in Christ Jesus should not be thinking like everyone else is thinking.
- We should not be believing and saying what everyone else is saying.
- We should not be doing what everyone else is doing.
- We should not be living by or following the worldly pattern.

Too often I get disappointed in myself and I get disappointed in others, and in the church of Christ Jesus in general when like the Apostle Paul, I look at what people are saying and doing, and I must draw the conclusion that “*some people... think that we live by the standards of this world*”. (2 Corinthians 10:2)

Church, we do not, or at least we should not be living by the standards of this world! If we are born again, but still trying to live according to the standard of this world we are going to be conflicted and miserable! There is too much sloppy grace, too much sin in the church, and too much of God's holy and redeemed people living and acting like the unredeemed, the unholy.

We are born again, recreated, and rewired to now live according to God's pattern for us.

Now God has called us out of the worldly patten and we are called to live as God's holy people, separated from our old nature, being transformed into holiness. Holy Transformed.

We are set free from the bondage of sin, and we are called to live lives of freedom from sin.

**As a matter of fact, the Bible says that we are to be “Holy”. We are to live lives of “Holiness”.**

### Holiness Defined

**Holy - Called Out; Set apart for God's service and worship.** (*Two things that I wish we all did*). **A separated people.** (Set apart for something special.)

In the Old Testament, all the temple elements were separated, cleansed, and set aside for God's worship.

- Even the priests were cleansed by an atoning sacrifice.
- On the turban the priest wore was a gold plate stating: “Holy to the Lord”.  
*Exodus 28:36 "Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD.*
- We too are separated (Holy) for the Lord.

Today, we will be looking at the Biblical truth that: “We are called to be Holy, a separated people.” Next week, we will help you learn to live holy and give you some tips on “Holy Living”.

## We Are Called to be Holy, a Separated People

### Be Holy as God is Holy.

*1 Pet 1:13-19 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. We defined "Grace" as not only, unmerited favor, but also God's enabling power! So, we prepare ourselves for action. We are self-controlled with our hope fully resting in God's enabling power. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." <sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

- A price was paid so that we can be Holy. The value of an item is often determined by what someone is willing to pay for it.
- You were called to be separate and to live Holy. That was made possible or paid for by the blood of Jesus. Now, don't dishonor Jesus by choosing to live unholy.

**Next Life Transformation Step: This week I will meditate on the fact that I am bought by God with the blood of Jesus and now I'm separated to be holy.**

### We are the Holy Temples of God.

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (us as individuals) <sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.*

Again, we see that we are purchased; bought with a price, therefore honor God with your body.

### The Church is Made Up of Holy Temples.

*1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (we corporately as the church) <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred (Holy), and you together are that temple.*

In this text the temple of God is the local church. This time Paul describes God's temple as being sacred or holy, made up of all believers, anytime and anywhere. "The temple" here does not refer to the structure in which believers meet to worship. Rather, Christians themselves are the temple of God. They are His temple because God's Spirit dwells within them and they are sacred and holy.

God is building a holy structure identified as God's temple, the church, made holy by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

*Ephesians 2:19-22 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

You are a member of the church universal, but even your physical body becomes Holy because it houses God's Holy Spirit.

*Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

**Next Life Transformation Step: This week I ask the Lord to continue to fill me with the Holy Spirit and continue to transform me into holiness.**

### Called unto Holiness.

*1Thessalonians 4:3-8 It is God's will that you should be sanctified (To separate or make something Holy / To free from sin by an act of purification): that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, <sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we have told you and warned you before. <sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. A warning... <sup>8</sup> Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.*

To reject holiness is to reject God and reject His will for you.

## As Holy People, Live for Jesus.

*2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

**Question:** Honestly, who are you living for? Yourself or Jesus?

**Next Life Transformation Step:** I will honestly evaluate my life and determine if I am living for myself or living for Christ Jesus.

## Life as A Holy Nation.

*1 Peter 2:9a But you are a chosen people (NKJ -generation) (1085 genos (ghen'-os); from 1096; "kin" /gene pool), a royal priesthood, a holy nation (Not the Bulldog Nation, the Gator Nation, or the Eagle Nation), God's special possession, (a people belonging to God, NIV 1984 / His own special people (peculiar, different,) NKJ*

**Question:** Do you look, act, and talk, just like the world?

**Why has God chosen you, separated you and made you holy?**

**Why is it important that we are Holy Transformed in Jesus Image?**

*1 Peter 2:9b-10 that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

We are Holy Transformed called out of sin and separated for a special purpose.

- To declare the praises of Christ Jesus
- To live as God People who have experienced His mercy.
- To be that Holy Nation, separated for the purposes of Christ Jesus.

## Life App Group and Family Devotional Application

1. Explain what it means to be a "triune being".
2. In your own words explain the difference in salvation and sanctification.
3. What does it mean when it says not to conform to the pattern or the image of this world? In what ways do we conform? In what ways are we good at not conforming to the world?
4. Rather than conforming to the world, what are we supposed to do instead?
5. When God says, "Be holy, because I am holy," is that too much for Him to ask of us? How do we do that?
6. 1 Corinthians 6:19 states your body is a \_\_\_\_\_. How would knowing this effect your decisions and what you allow your body to participate in?
7. 2 Corinthians 5:15 tells us to live for Jesus. Honestly, who are you living for? Yourself or Jesus?
8. According to 1 Peter 2:9-10 is it ok to be peculiar, different, or an outlier from the masses.
9. What special purpose do you think God has set you apart for? Are you walking in that now?