

RM + B (x) DH = TtR

John 1:12-13

As many as believed in Him, He gives the right to become sons and daughters of God, not born of the will of a man, of blood nor of the flesh but by the Spirit of God.

We become a child of God by believing and receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We are granted grace and mercy and all of our sins are forgiven, cleansed through the effective working power of the Holy Spirit. We are given a spiritual birth, born into the spiritual family of God and “*become a chosen people, a royal priesthood of people, a holy nation of people, a peculiar people; that we should show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light*” it tells us in **2 Pet 2:9** 

We are no longer to live to and for this world, that our fellowship and home is now of the Spiritual kingdom of God. Paul, our spiritual brother in Christ tells us, **Rom. 12:1**, “*I beseech you therefore, brethren (brothers and sisters), by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*” 

Our brother Paul, tells us, that being of the spiritual family and home of God, but still in these earthly vessels, living in this world, we are to present or the word *παρίστημι paristémi (par-is'-tay-mee)* our bodies a living sacrifice. Now *παρίστημι paristémi (par-is'-tay-mee)* means, not so much “to present”, as a presentation of what’s prepared, but it means more of a presenting as a proof of availability. Let’s see if we can explain, say you desire to join the football team, and you just learn on July 31st,

that the first day of practice is August 1st, you show up to practice on August 1st, having had no prior preparation, but you present yourself to the coach and say, “I’m here, ready to learn, get in shape and become a football player”. You’ve presented yourself, made yourself available to be shaped, molded and become part of the team. The word present or *παρίστημι paristémi (par-is'-tay-mee)*, means more of an act devoting oneself to the service of learning and discipline, as opposed to a presentation of showing oneself; this is why it’s presenting “a living sacrifice”, willing to undergo the rigors of training, the reproof, the correction, the instructions. The presenting our bodies is then the beginning of a right course unto good works, it is not good works themselves. Did you get that? 

By bodies he means not only our bones and skin, but the whole mass of which we are composed, our minds, hearts and physical bodies, in order that we may dedicate all the actions of our life to His will and service. Our bodies are the instruments by which we execute our purposes, and we are all through His grace made priests, a holy priesthood unto Him, and in order to carry out that service, we have to use our bodies, be it prayer, reading our Bibles, going to Church, singing and praising, preaching, witnessing to others or living Christian lives, it is with our bodies we fulfill that.

Now, many of us still view our bodies from an outward or worldly perspective, wanting it to be appealing, trying to conform it to the world’s liking, his liking, her liking, their liking. We look at God wanting us to present our bodies, like we fixate presenting our bodies in the world, that before we can present our bodies, we have to get it ready. Many think presenting our bodies to the Lord

is like getting ready for the prom. We think we have to straighten out our lives first, make ourselves to be suitable, get it together first. *“wait Lord, I have to clean it up, I need to loose some weight to fit into this dress, I need to go to the gym and do some crunches to get those ripped abs. I need to put my make-up before I come before you, I need some cologne or perfume. I need to get a hair cut, iron my clothes, etc., etc.,* before we can present our bodies. 

We all talk about how the Lord tells us, *“come as you are”*, but few of us cast off our own insecurities and just come as we are! Many of us still look at how others in Church are dressed, and if their dressed somewhat unkempt, we either feel sympathy or turn our nose up because of how their dressed. But, maybe, just maybe, they just came as they are.

I remember hearing this testimony from this woman that was going through a lot of problems in her life, I don't remember all of what it was now, but I remember it was traumatic. And, here and her husband were friends with this other couple who had not long both accepted the Lord. While her husband and the other woman's husband were in the living room talking, her and the other lady were talking in the kitchen, and the lady told her about Jesus and said, Jesus loves us and He just wants us to come as we are. So, she just left and got in her car and drove. Now mind you, it was around 10 o'clock at night. And, she said, she spoke out loud while driving, *“Jesus, if you want me just as I am, here I am.* So, if that's true, then there should be a Church open for me to go into and I will give my life to you. ... Was about to close --- When she got back they were like, were did you disappear to. She explained that if Jesus wanted her just as she was, she was going to going to go to Jesus right then just as she was inside and out.

So, if you ragged, haggard, tore down, broke down, stinking, unkempt, not together, got issues and problems, God says, “come as you are”. The Lord will never tell us to “straighten out our lives and become perfect, and then you will be in a suitable state to present yourself to me. If, the Lord waited for us to get ready, we would never come. Truth is, we will never feel ready.

My brother Paul says, *“I beseech (beg or urge) you as those who have received mercy from God, this moment, to do it, just as you are”*. Not to wait until you feel religious, warm and fuzzy, got yourself together, straightened some things out, got your Jesus face on, ect., before you present yourself to God. Come now, with all your tensions, contentions, difficulties, issues, problems, memories, just the way you are, offer your undisciplined, out of shape, unruly, bad behavior, bodies to the Lord. Show up and ready to prove yourself wanting to grow in Christ. 📖

Now, **Rom. 12:1**, is but a direct exhortation, a lead in, to **verse (v.2)**; *“Be not conformed or do not conform any longer 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.”*

What Paul is speaking of in **verse (2)** is what I will refer to as a positive/negative exchange. What I mean by this is, for example, you breathe in oxygen, which is needed to sustain your life, but you also have to breathe out or expel the poison carbon monoxide. Your body takes in food to nourish your body, and you evacuate or expel the waste products. That is the rhythm of natural life, as well as, spiritual life.

If your natural body doesn't expel the poisons of carbon monoxide or waste products, it can go into shock which can lead to death. The spiritual functions can be correlated to physical functions. You must both take in good and expel bad. If you take in but you don't expel, the waste builds up. The process is an exchange. 📄

So what Paul is explaining here is, offering our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God is part of the good/bad exchange. Like the example of the kid wanting to join the football team but had no prior preparation. He comes to practice out of shape, but he runs that mile, does the 50 sprints, does the sit-ups; he exchanges exercising to get in shape for being out of shape. I hope that makes sense to you.

The body is always referred to in the Old and New Testament as the impediment to the soul with its lusts, it is the source and seat of temptation and sin; hence, it is to be devoted to the things of God. 📄

The tension of Rom. 12:1-2 is not so much focused on being conformed to this world, it implies you are already conformed to this world's way of thinking and being; but the emphasis is placed on what's needed to expel our conformity; and that would be transforming yourself by first exchanging your worldly conformed thoughts with God's truth, renew your mind or *nous*, thinking, feelings and will. 📄

However, learning God's Word, His Will is still but knowledge, maybe even having gained some understanding; it is still but intellectualized, theorized information. The word transformed is

the Greek word *Metaphoo*, where we obviously get the English word *Metamorphoses*, to change from one thing into another. A caterpillar can't become a butterfly unless it presents its body to go through the change to become a butterfly. We must use our bodies to carry out the transformation of the knowledge and understanding of God's Word received in our minds. If we don't use our bodies to carry out our renewed mind, it remains nothing more than intellectualizing, theorizing and academia. You can go to work having read all the procedures and protocols and have that knowledge in your head, but unless you act upon and carry these functions out, you're just a no good employee with knowledge. This is the presenting our bodies for the purpose of showing forth my transform(**ing**). 📖

What are we really transforming into? A religious person, someone who just believes in God and His Son Jesus Christ? Transformed into being righteous for righteous sake?

Scripture tells us that we are not only are born again of the Spirit of God, but we are also adopted or *υιοθεσία huiothesia*; which means the placing as a son or daughter in that relationship with – God. 📖

When one is adopted, they become part of a new family, brought into a new home, into a new environment. Being adopted means they have to transform to a conformity of that new relationship, that new home, that new environment. They are not supposed to continue living like they were. They must present themselves to that new relationship, new family, new home; to the dynamics of that new relationship, to the rules of the family, and the ways of living in that new home. They're not expected to know the

dynamics, but grow to them; to know the rules but learn them; the ways of how to live in the new home, but make yourself available to the ways. Present yourself!

If you used to living on the streets and not bathing that often, come to learning to bathe more frequently. If you didn't have chores, you asked to participate in doing chores. If it never mattered to you whether you wore dirty clothes, feel good about washing and wearing clean clothes, etc., if I cursed when living on the streets, respect curse in this relationship and home, etc., and so on. You get the point. 📖

You are required to present yourself mind and body to be transformed from one thing to another to be part of this family and home. Now, our loving Father is understanding, patient, longsuffering, kind, merciful and gracious, but He does want us to bring ourselves to Him so He could advise us, teach us, show us on how to conduct ourselves in this new family, this new home.

Transformation / change can be scary, even painful at times, but our brother Paul urges us to present our bodies, for the process of transforming our minds to know God's will for our adoption. Our going to church every Sunday and Bible Study on Wednesday won't, even if it strokes our affections for God, transform us to the good and perfect will of God. It is the presenting our bodies which brings about the transformation.

God tells us that we are to constantly renew our minds and carry it out in practice with our bodies of what we learned. He gave us His Word for this process of taking in the good and expelling the bad, **2 Tim. 2:16-17:**

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. ☰

Teach, reprove, correct and instruct.

His Word is to teach us, reproof us, to correct us, and instruct us on how to take in the good and expel the bad, to bring about our change, are transformation.

Ephesians 4:23 tells us, we ought to:

be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

How do I put on the new man? By a negative/positive structure exchange. I must commit to change my actions of the old man, and its conformity to way I have lived or live, and then allow myself to put on the actions of the new man, which was recreated in Christ Jesus. To allow my spirit man to direct my body into the will of God. That's how I prove what is the good and perfect will of God by living it out, not intellectualizing or theorizing it, but presenting my body for Him to guide it, to live it. ☰

This is always a continual work in progress. We are a work in progress. We are constantly breathing in good and expelling bad.

Yet, God commands us to be transformed, metamorphosis. Now, here's the equation for us to work out for transformation as we mentioned at the beginning: $RM + B (x) DH = TtR$

So, let's solve this equation.

Renewed Mind + Body (x) Devine Help = Transformation to Righteousness 

Renewed Mind

Renewing your mind is like upgrading software on your computer. You have to replace the older version with the newer version. So to do that you have to download and install the new version, which erases the older version on my computer and then it runs the newer version software. However, many people don't want to take the update because they think updating their software will cause them to lose their old data. And then wonder why their system is not running right or working properly. They get mad and frustrated but won't accept or realize that it's because your system is supposed to operating with new software, but still running on running your old version.

This is what many of us tend to do, put new information received from God's Word together with our messy thinking, and reason it to be renewed of mind. We keep our old ways of thinking mingled with God's truth. Until we realize, our mind needs to be reprogrammed to reflect only God's truth, we will keep the same mental strongholds.

Renewing your mind is throwing away your old thoughts and replacing them with new thoughts, right thoughts, God centered

thoughts. It requires faith, and faith is acting on the Word of God. The renewing of the mind brings your will into agreement with God's will for your life. As you fill your mind with His Word by hearing it, reading it, thinking about it, memorizing it, praying to it, speaking it out loud, singing to it, you begin to think in a way that pleases God, and His ways become your ways. ☰

Body

As we discussed, presenting my body, is not presenting something to show to God or simply be counted present, but presenting it to God, as being available for God to change me, transform me. To teach me, reproof me, correct me, instruct me unto righteousness before Him. This is coming to God as knowing I am a work in progress, and will be a work in progress, but I will show up each and every day for God to work something new out in me. It is a perpetual changing. ☰

(x) Devine Help

Times Devine Help. It's not a plus, it's exponential need for Devine help. Only by the working power of the Holy Spirit are we able to come to the things of God. It is a constant crying mightily to the Lord to assist us. "Lord it's hard to do this or that." "Lord, help me to overcome this or that." Lord, "take this or that from me." "Lord, is this what you want me to do, then I need your strength." "Lord, I'm weary and I need your strength." "Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord.... I Need!" ☰

Only by His Spirit are we able. We must cry mightily to God for his assistance. Because the way of a person is not within them, He tells us; but we have a comforter that is always available to help and assist us in our time of need. Amen and Hallelujah.

This equals

Transformation to Righteousness

Not transformation to righteousness, but being transformed constantly, each and every day to a righteousness acceptable unto God. This is the transformation, is the more I understand of the Lord, the more becomes more, year by year, month by month, week by week, day by day, what is the will of God. Then we commit ourselves to doing His will anywhere, everywhere as we follow him. We are being transformed progressively, from one degree of glory to another. 

Little by little every day,

Little by little in every way,

Jesus is changing me.

He's changing me, my blessed Saviour.

I'm not the same person I used to be.

It's been slow going, but there's a knowing

That someday perfect I will be.”

RM + B (x) DH = TtR

God Bless and Amen!



