

# Christian Transformation

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1987, (Rev. 91)

**Introduction:** A recent study commissioned by High Adventure Ministries and conducted by the Roper Organization shockingly found little difference in the behavior of a born-again Christian before and after their conversion experience. The results of the study seem to suggest a moral decline in the American church. One of the commissioners said, "We've reached a point in our Christianity where there is little or no distinction between what we say and what we do. Accountability is lacking, confrontation is lacking, and we are marketing salvation in such a way that discipleship is simply not occurring" (The Baptist Bulletin, 1991).

The believer in Christ must realize the kind of changes involved in the Christian life.

## **1. CHANGE THAT HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE**

A new creation already exists for those who have accepted Christ as Savior:

A. A change from the old, 2 Cor. 5:17, Romans 6:6, Col. 3:9.

Some have referred to the phrase "old passed away" means "our old position, standing, and relationship to the Adamic nature has changed." If this is true, a life of slavery to sin and sin domination has ceased.

B. A change to the new, 2 Cor. 5:17, Col. 3:10.

Some have referred to the phrase "All things new" means our new position, orientation and nature now exists. It is different than the one after fallen Adam. This nature is after the New Adam (Christ). It is spiritual in nature and untainted by sin.

## **2. CHANGE THAT SHOULD BE TAKING PLACE**

There should be a gradual on-going change in the Christian's life:

A. The new pattern that changes our life, 2 Cor. 3:18.

By constantly seeing the Living Word (the life of Christ) in the written Word (the Bible) and by submitting to its precepts, the Holy Spirit brings a continual transformation (Greek "metamorphoumetha," v18) in our lives.

B. The new thought process that changes our life, Romans 12:2.

By continually changing our inward intellectual pursuits and moral standards (renewing our mind, v2), the outward pattern of our life will transform (Greek "metamorphousthe," v2) to God's will.

C. The new self-control that changes our life, Eph. 4:20-24.

By learning of Christ and His Truth (v20-21) three results occur: 1. denying (putting off, repudiating, v22) the old nature which was conformed to the previous unregenerate life style, 2. changing (renovating, restoring, renewing, v23) our minds (attitudes, thoughts, discernment), 3. clothe ourselves with (put on, model, v24) the new nature created in the believer by the new birth.

### **3. CHANGE THAT SHOULD NEVER TAKE PLACE**

In Romans 12:2 we find the believer should not conform, mold, or fashion (suschiematidzesthe, v2)themselves according to the present age (world).

### **4. CHANGE THAT IS STILL TO COME**

1 Cor. 15:51-54, 1 John 3:2, Phil. 3:21, all reveal that the believer will be changed (Greek “allagesometha”) from an Adam (soulish) creation to a Christ (spiritual) creation. This will be the final aspect of our redemption, often called adoption or glorification (Romans 8:15-23) where all sin with its effects will be removed.

**Conclusion:** Changes that need to take place in a Christian's life sometimes never do. If change doesn't occur in a Christian's life there may be two possible explanations: 1. that individual has never experience the new birth, or 2. that individual hasn't learned about the true life of Christianity. We must exercise patience during the transforming process of Christian sanctification because many haven't caught up with their position in Christ.