

# Milk & Honey

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*Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ*

## Transformation

A Bible Word Full Of Meaning

There are two Greek words that can be translated into the English word “transformed” and they are used in four different passages in the New Testament. In the English dictionary the word “transformed” can take on at least four different definitions.

1. It can be used to denote the transformation that takes place through the act of magic or sorcery. It is an act of delusion or deceit. It is used this way in 2 Cor. 11:13-15: “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” Commenting on this passage C. F. Wimberly states, “If Satan were allowed to pose for a full sized pictures of himself, just as he wishes to be seen by the children of this generation, no portrait painter could produce a specimen of rarer beauty; it would grace the walls of the most exclusive parlor, and attract special attention in any great art gallery of the world. The features would be the most graceful and artistic combination of curves and circles. The devil of today is not only an apostle of sunshine, but of beauty. The devil of today believes that ethical culture should be the slogan and the watchword of every pulpit. Religion without refinement is absurd; the esthetic taste should be looked after more than belief in some abstract Bible doctrine; then the race would be free from the bondage of creed and fear. True religion is nothing more than a just appreciation of art, literature, science, philosophy, and nature. God is in all these things rather than some musty, stereotyped statement of faith.” There are many today who pose as servants and ministers of God, but deny the basic and fundamental teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

They promote that which is popular and appealing rather than that which is the truth of God.

2. It can be used to denote a marked change in a person’s character. The change is illustrated in nature by the metamorphosis of the caterpillar to a butterfly. It is used this way in 2 Cor. 3:18: “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the

same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Commenting on this verse, H. A. Ironside states, “As you go on day after day, as you are occupied with Christ, you become like Him. If occupied with Him, other people will soon realize that you are becoming more and more like Him as the days go by. You remember Hawthorne’s story of The Great Stone Face. He tells of a lad who lived in the village below the mountain, and there upon the mountain was that image of the great stone face, looking down so solemnly, so seriously, upon the people. There was a legend that some day someone was coming to that village who would look just like the great stone face, and would do some wonderful things for the village and would be the means of great blessing. The story gripped this lad, and he used to slip away and hour after hour would stand looking at that great stone face and thinking of the story about the one that was coming. Years passed, and that one did not come, and still the young man did what the boy had done, and went to sit and contemplate the majesty, the beauty of that great stone face. By and by youth passed way and middle age came on, and still he could not get rid of that legend; and then old age came, and one day as he walked through the village someone looked at him and exclaimed, He has come, the one who is like the great stone face! He became like that which he contemplated. If you want to be Christlike, look at Jesus. If you want to grow in grace, contemplate Jesus. You find Him revealed in the Word, so read your Bible and meditate upon it.” This is a real work of transformation that God is able to bring about in the life of every true believer in Christ who spends time with Christ and His Word.

3. It can be used to show a change in function. For example, someone has an old player-piano in the basement of their house. It sits there unused year after year. Someone comes along and refurbishes it and puts in the lobby of a restaurant and it begins playing music again. The piano has been renewed and serves a new function. It is used this way in Romans 12:2: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Commenting on this verse, W. H. Griffith Thomas says, “The only way to prevent the outward shape of our life from being fashioned like that of the world is to take care that the inward spirit of our being is transformed by

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## How Should The Church React To Sinners?

Randy Amos

If you would observe a child saying a defiant “no” to its parent, what would you do? There is more than one right answer as it would depend upon the circumstances. There could be at least four different actions that could be best or right.

1. Nothing. If the child were a stranger’s child in a store – while not approving, you would do nothing. This is because you have no authority.

2. Concerned Advice. If it were a child of a relative or close friend – you would take no direct action, but you might feel free to share some training advice to help your friend.

3. Verbal Protest and Promises of Judgment. If it was your child in a public store – you might correct him verbally there and promise consequences when at home.

4. Discipline. If it were your child in your home, you would react quite differently. You would carry out discipline right there for you have full authority in caring for the welfare of your child and family.

This leads us to the subject of people who commit sins of a weighty nature. Sins such as stealing, drunkenness, substance abuse, sexual immorality of all types, marital infidelity, unbiblical remarriage, blasphemy against God in word or doctrine, cheating in business (dishonesty) and reviling another’s character with ones tongue, etc. How are we to react in ways that represent our Lord to those who are doing such? As you search the Scriptures you will see it can be a number of different ways. It will require wisdom that understands the circumstances.

Four areas a Christian might find himself in with those sinning are–

### 1. The Unsaved world

Here we learn Christians are not to carry out judgment upon those outside the church. God will do that. We are told that if we couldn’t have contact with the sinners of this world, we would have to go out of this world. What we do bring to the sinful world is a gospel of non-condemnation. Since they are “condemned already” we share the gospel that they can be saved. Saved from their judgment and their sinfulness and so not be condemned forever. This salvation happens by faith in the Savior (God’s Son, Jesus the Christ) who took their judgment for them on the cross and lives as Lord of all.

### 2. Government And Their Laws

Here we learn we are to submit to the ordinances of man unless such tell us to personally disobey our Lord. It is possible that something might be right legally but wrong morally.

But that legal law that permits sin (in a variety of ways) does not force you to commit such. If it did force you to personally disobey God, you could disobey it like Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel did. But by not personally participating in the sinful acts that government might condone and rebuking such acts, we can keep a measure of light before the world. But we are given no authority as the church to punish or force government to conform (though one might appeal). Government broke many laws in the crucifixion of Christ, yet “he opened not His mouth.”

### 3. Professing Christians In The World At Large

Here we see if one is overtaken in a fault we are to share his burden by attempting in meekness to restore him back to God’s ways. We might share insight from Scripture with him. If he still continues in such where it disgraces the testimony of Christ we are to “have no company with him, that he might be ashamed.” But even as we admonish him, we must not treat him as an enemy.

### 4. Christians In Fellowship In Your Local Church

Here the action takes on a more direct form. We are to “earnestly contend for the faith.” Here you have people publicly naming the Name of the Lord Jesus and under the authority of God in His assembly of believers of which they claim fellowship. Here there are elders to guide the assembly in the holiness of God. While we are not to judge those “without” the church, we are taught to “judge them that are within.” The person might have to be excommunicated from the church fellowship, and saints are not even to socially eat together until the stained testimony is corrected.

We see the Lord Jesus presently correcting, not the world, but the churches (Rev. 2–3) while the saving gospel from future judgment is given to the world. This is the difference of “in-house” and “out-of-house” issues. May we know the Lord’s wisdom in His Word so we will know the arena where to be a pacifist and where to be an activist for the Lord. \*

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{Some Scriptures for the truth of reacting differently in the four areas. Area 1 - Mark 16:15 / John 3:17,18 / 1Cor. 5:9, 10. Area 2 - Rom. 13:1-4 / Ex. 1:15-17 / Daniel 3 & 6 / Acts 5:29 / Eph. 5:7-12 / 1 Cor. 5:12a. Area - Gal. 6:1, 2 / 2Thess. 3:11-15. Area 4 - Jude :3 / 1Cor. 5 /}

## Spread The Word Conference

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# Dangers Facing Assembly Leadership

Steve Hulshizer  
Excerpt

In my travel among the assemblies it is evident that the general spiritual condition of some of them is poor. Attendance is often a small portion of those who would claim to be in fellowship. Worldliness has made inroads and it is manifested in a lack of commitment to the local assembly and by a strong commitment to careers, hobbies, sports, and recreation.

Another very evident need is for godly oversight. Men who are committed to caring for the Lord's people even though it means great personal sacrifice. In many assemblies there is no identifiable leadership and the Lord's people go from week to week like sheep without a shepherd. In other gatherings there are those who have been identified as elders, but who do little or none of the work involved in shepherding the Lord's people. Thankfully, there are those assemblies with identifiable and godly overseers who with personal sacrifice care for the saints.

## Popularity

No one likes to be disliked and thus acceptance by others can often lead us to do things simply to please the people. Throughout Scripture we find those who were driven by "the people." In 1 Samuel 15 we find Saul trying to justify his disobedience and several times he speaks of "the people." "But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep." (vs.9) "And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep..." (vs. 15) "But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal." (vs. 21)

We find a similar thing with Aaron. Moses had gone up to the mount and when he did not return for sometime Aaron built the golden calf. Moses returns and asks, "What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?" Aaron replies, "Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us" (Ex. 32:19-23) Once again a leader is persuaded by the sentiment of the people.

In contrast to this we read concerning Paul, "...do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." (Gal. 1:10) Writing to the Thesalonians he says, "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." Paul was not

driven by acceptance by the people, but by obedience to the Lord, which to him was of utmost importance.

Nowhere do we find that Christ was driven by man's opinion and desires, but rather He would say, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." (John 4:34) May it be so with those who seek to shepherd His sheep. May they seek to please the Chief Shepherd above all else. May the Lord provide the needed grace to obey His Word and absorb the reproach of the people when their mind is different from the mind of the Lord.

## Frustration

Often those in leadership are the objects of the people's rage. Moses is an excellent example. The nation of Israel had come to a point where there was no water and so "they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron." "And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!" (Num. 20:2-3) It is not uncommon that when things are going well those in leadership are unappreciated, but when hard times come the blame is immediately placed on those in leadership. So it was with Moses and Aaron.

No doubt Moses and Aaron were frustrated as a result of the people's constant murmuring and they "went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces." The Lord instructed Moses to take the rod, and gather the people and to speak to the rock before his eyes and it would provide the needed water for the people.

Moses did as instructed, except in frustration he struck the rock with the rod. His frustration with the people was evident in his language. "Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" (Num. 20:10) His frustration led to anger and his anger to disobedience.

How different is the Lord Jesus. Many times His disciples were dull in hearing and yet He continues to deal graciously with them—and with us! In one case, after just feeding the five thousand, He desires to feed four thousand people and the disciples ask, "Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?" (Matt. 15:33) We, like His disciples, are so dull at times and yet He graciously leads us on.

May the Lord encourage the hearts of those in oversight, particularly when they are dealing with a murmuring people. May they be enabled to be gracious in situations which normally promote frustration. \*

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Write for the free 14 page booklet which presents additional dangers assembly oversight faces.

*Dangers Facing Assembly Leadership*

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*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind... Romans 12:2*

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the renewing of our mind. The Holy Spirit is to be allowed continually to work in the realm of our intellectual and moral knowledge and thought. The mind in Scripture is much more than mere intellect, for it has a moral aspect as well. It blends the intellectual and the moral, and may be described as the faculty by which the soul perceives and discerns the good and the true. As the result of sin this faculty has been injured and disturbed; self has darkened the mind, and led it to regard everything from a purely personal and selfish point of view. It is the Holy Spirit alone Who can renew in us this faculty of mental and moral perception. By reason of sin it is under the power of the flesh, but when delivered from this sway and controlled by the Holy Spirit the faculty recovers its power of discernment and is enabled to realize what is right and true.”

4. Finally, it can be used in reference to a bodily change. It is used this way in Phil. 3:21: “Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” Commenting on this verse, G. C. Willis says, “These poor, weak, mortal bodies are going to be changed in conformity to or, are going to share the form of His body of glory. We may not be able to understand it; but we believe it. Whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). And Who changes us in this amazing way? Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whom we eagerly await as Savior. He Who made the stars also can subdue these mortal bodies, and have them put on immortality.” In 1 Corinthians 15, we are taught that these corruptible bodies (ever changing for the worse) shall become incorruptible (never subject to change anymore). This is the final and triumphant act of divine transformation. \* (Author Unknown)

## Assembly Leadership

Without question Paul placed the leadership of the affairs of the churches in the hands of men. His view concerning the place of women in the church was that they should be subordinate and silent. Their subordination, based on the natural facts of creation, was to be exhibited in the meetings of the church by the wearing of a veil. This was the general practice of all the churches (1 Cor. 11:16) and was for the purpose of teaching men and angels an order which God effected in creation (1 Cor. 11:7-9). It was not connected with some local Corinthian peculiarity. In exhibiting subordination by wearing the veil, the women would be teaching sound doctrine. \* Charles Ryrie

## York Bible Study Program

September 2013 - May 2014

Date	Topic	Teacher
April 12	Fruit of the Spirit	Mark Shelley
May 10	Today's Dangers	John Gordon

## Milk & Honey Information

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