**Be Transformed**

Paul writes, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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" (Romans 12:1-2). Paul is exhorting the Christians in Rome to develop a proper fellowship with God by conforming to presentation of His image. But just how do we go about doing this? Simply put, we follow the pattern put forth by His Son.

John records, "He who says, I know Him and does not keep His commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:4-6). We transform ourselves from the old man of sin into a new creation who seeks to have fellowship with God by abiding in persistent obedience to His will. The idea presented by John appears to be that of settling down in Jesus or resting in Him. The idea presented becomes reality when we model our lives after Jesus. The admonition to live by the teachings of Jesus reveals this conformity comes from us. Slaves must follow the commands of their masters or they will be punished. Employees properly perform their work to keep their jobs. However, the Christian as a child of God ought to obey God because of a sincere desire to do so. It should be a joy to follow in the footsteps of and have fellowship with the One who died for us.

Thus, when "We walk in the light as He is in the light" (1 John 1:7), by the continual "renewing" of our mind (Romans 12:1-2), there is nothing upon this earth that can separate us from the fellowship we have with God. Paul writes, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, not things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created things, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Remember, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Let us each purpose to continually submit ourselves to God by the constant renewing of our minds through His instructive word.