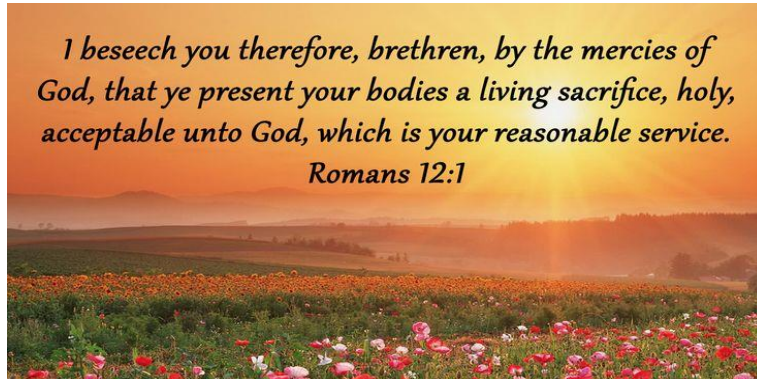


January 30, 2021

# Transformed



***"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men...Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect for everyone..."***

***"Slaves, submit to your masters...Wives in the same way be submissive to your husbands...Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives...Finally, live in harmony with one another..."*** I Peter 2:13-3:8

We are God's chosen people. By his will he allowed his one and only Son to die horribly on the cross for each and every one of us. By God's will we are his living temple, his royal priesthood, his chosen people. He has chosen us specifically and individually to ***"...declare the praises of him who called..."*** So, how do we do that? How do we declare his praises?

Peter would command us, ***"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God..."*** Scripture is consistent when it teaches us to bring praise and glory to God, by the good we do.

As God's chosen people our task is to live in such a way that he is glorified. How? Peter, like the Apostle Paul, will use a single word to describe this kind of life; ***"Submit"***. Human beings driven by their common self-serving drive to survive, do not naturally submit to anyone. Submission always requires what Jesus demands of us, ***"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself..."*** Paul would call us to have the attitude of Christ who ***"...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant..."***

We glorify God only when we submit ourselves entirely to the service of others. In doing so, we constantly fulfill that need to be valued that we all share. How do I show someone who has authority over me that they are valued, but by submitting. How do I show those who employ me that they are valued, but by submitting. How do I show those who labor for me that they are valued, but by submitting. How do I show my spouse, my child, my parent, or my brother or sister in Christ that they are valued, but by submitting.

Submission demands that I give up my way, my good, my desire, for another. It is the attitude of Christ which demands that I look to ***"...the interests of others..."*** and that I ***"...do to others what (I) would have them do to (me)." Good deeds are never sourced in selfishness.***

They always demand that we submit our way to the will of God, even when we do not want to. That is, after all, what it means to submit.

Where can we find the strength to live such submitted lives? In giving up our own pursuit of value through others we more fully experience the value that God has demonstrated for us. Jesus would say, "...*whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.*" It is in surrendering our lives, our inherent drive for value, that we find life and value in our relationship with our heavenly Father who perfectly loves us.



**Submit to God**  
**1Peter 2:21**