

February 6, 2022

# Transformed

*"Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it..."*

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ..."*



Submit to God  
1Peter 2:21

We are God's chosen people selected by him to receive his grace through the death of Jesus on the cross. He has chosen us to be his living temple, his royal priesthood, his people who literally wear his name. He has made us his children not because of who or what we are, but despite of who we are and what we are. God has demonstrated once and for all how very, very valuable we are in his choice to let Jesus die for us.

So, as we have noted again and again, our challenge as those who have accepted his grace placing our trust in him, is to respond appropriately to what he has already done for us. Over and over again God will show us what that response should look like and how we should live as those who have been chosen.

In our context for today Peter references the Psalms to remind us that those who would see good days must turn away from the world's ugliness and seek peace. As believers we cannot join in the activities of the world but must constantly live, the Apostle would say, as strangers in this world. And, we will be like strangers in this world if we live a godly life. Who we are will be obvious because of the way we live and interact with this world and we will very likely suffer for our faith through those interactions.

As we live in this broken world we have a single task and that task is to continually bring glory and praise to God through our willing submission to his authority, even when that submission is very, very challenging and submission nearly always is. Giving up our way for the benefit of others is so very difficult because we are naturally a selfish people.

Our willing submission to authority shows up in every relationship and really, in nearly every action and word. We are constantly challenged to resist authority, to insist on our own way, to rebel no matter the consequences. Peter would remind us that believers are those who seek peace.

An important aspect of learning to submit ourselves is to change our attitude about our own importance. In response to God's overwhelming love we can, and in fact, I believe we must be willing to see ourselves as those who willingly serve others no longer insisting on our own way.

In practice this life style would translate in so many things and in so many ways. Authority says the speed limit is this many miles and hour for this road. Will I submit or will I rebel? Authority says I must wear my seat belt. Will I submit or will I rebel? Authority says I must love my enemy and pray for them. Will I submit or will I rebel?

In practice a submitted live style is reflected in nearly every choice I make. And, Peter wants me to understand, when I choose submission my choices will eventually translate into praise and glory for God.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*Romans 12:1*

