

RIGHT LIVING: GOD'S GIFTS IN ACTION

ROMANS 12:3-5

BEFORE WE MOVE AHEAD, first a step back. Last time I rushed this very important truth from **v. 12:2a**

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

- It is in and with the ***mind*** that we make choices as to whether we will express **our new nature in holiness** or **allow our fleshly humanness to act in un-holiness.**

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

WORLD is the sum of the demonically-influenced human actions, institutions, and philosophy of life.

- It is not uncommon for unbelievers to mask themselves as Christians.
- Unfortunately, it also is not uncommon for Christians to wear the world's masks. **We must be different, be sanctified, be holy.**
- **Stand out—stand up and stay clear of the world.**

THE DIVINE METAMORPHOSIS

Instead of *conforming*, Paul goes on to say we should rather *be transformed*.

- We are positively and purposefully commanded to allow ourselves to be changed outwardly into conformity to our new redeemed inner natures.
- *God's Word* is the instrument the Holy Spirit uses to renew our minds, which, in turn, He uses to transform our living. We must be people of uncompromising devotion to the *Word of God!*

BECOMING HIS HANDS AND FEET

IN LIVING RIGHT, He controls all that we are—
soul/spirit, mind, body.

- The work of Jesus Christ in this world is in the hands and feet, mouth and pocketbooks of those who belong to Him.
- On the human side, it is upon our faithfulness, obedience, and usefulness that the work of His kingdom now primarily rests.

IT IS ABOUT DEVOTION, THEN SERVICE

The purpose of offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices is not mystical or monastic, but **eminently practical**.

- True service to God brings honor to Him and blessings for us only when it is the outflow of our worship in offering ourselves as living sacrifices.
- True worship cannot be divorced from service. Through very diverse giftings—including simply being a godly husband or wife—***USE YOUR GIFTS!***

HOW TO USE THOSE GIFTS

1. THE PROPER ATTITUDE FOR ACTION: TRUE HUMILITY.

- The Christian's proper attitude is humility, "*not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think.*" **In other words, get over yourself!**

2. THE PROPER RELATIONSHIPS FOR ACTION: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

- ***It's about teamwork . . . everyone matters!***

3. THE PROPER WAY TO ACTION: FAITHFUL COOPERATION

- Each believer has different giftings, and God has bestowed these gifts so the local body can grow in a balanced way and have everything it needs to prosper.
- Spiritual gifts are tools to build with, not toys to play with or weapons to fight with.
- **RIGHT LIVING** leads to **GOD'S GIFTS IN ACTION** through humility, unity, diversity, and cooperation.