

Human Metamorphosis

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We live in a day and time when the concepts of home, family, integrity, responsibility, commitment, and trust have lost their meaning and value. Our homes have become “*Filling Stations*” where children sprint to the refrigerators and ovens for quick drinks and snacks only to hurry out the door to ‘hang out’ with their friends in the mall or other ‘cool places’. Moms and Dads set the pace for this unhealthy practice as they, too, rush past each other to grab a ‘quick bite’ as they head out the door to meetings, or to that all important function that they ‘can’t afford to miss’. The family members fill up on **sustenance** but never tap into the **substance** of each other’s lives. What a tragedy!

Furthermore, our homes have become *Emergency Care Stations* where bandages, Chap Stik, cough medicine, and Advil are used to mediate the bumps and bruises of life. Many of these actions are completed without any sense of caring, connection, or appreciation for services rendered. Our homes have become air-conditioned museums, meticulously outfitted with the world’s finest furniture, china, linens, and associated trappings. Many of these palatial palaces appear to have everything—but upon closer observation are missing the essential ingredients for health and survival—love, the spirit of caring, and most of all, the grace of God. Families around the world are in a death struggle for survival. Our children and heads of households are disconnected, disenfranchised, and lost

In Psalms 127:1, the Psalmist says “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it.” This timeless truth is applicable for all generations—especially those of us living in the 21st century. Paul’s commentary regarding this biblical truth can be seen in 1Corinthians 3:11 where he says, “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Paul reminded the Corinthian brethren to place their confidence and hope in Jesus, not themselves. We must take his admonition to heart if we desire to build strong, solid families that honor God in all things.

Paul, in essence, tells the Christians at Rome to allow themselves to be “transformed by renewing their minds”, Rom. 12:2. The word transform comes from the Greek word metamorphoo, which means “to undergo a complete change which, under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct” (Vines, 1160). The Greek word metamorphoo gives us our English word metamorphosis. Consider the change from worm to butterfly and one will understand better the transformation that occurs when one puts on Christ in baptism - the “newness of life” made possible by Christ’s death on the cross and our humble submission to His divine plan (Romans 6: 1-13). What an awesome word picture! We don’t change on our own; changes occur because we allow God’s word to have priority and prominence in our lives. That’s the beauty of the transformation process.

The transformation process directly impacts the way we see and do things. This will lead us to make the necessary adjustments in our homes and families to ensure that God holds the pre-eminent place. The changes begin in the:

Heart

This is the seat of our emotions. Jesus taught the disciples that whatever they treasured—their heart would inevitably follow, Matt. 6:21. Loving God with all one's heart was one of the commandments upon which hung the "Whole Law and the Prophets", Matt 22:35-40.

Head

This is the seat of intellectual stimulation. Commitment will cause one to pursue knowledge/understanding of God's word. Paul's admonition to Timothy was to "study" or "give diligence" (2Tim 2:15). Other passages that speak to this issue are found in 1Tim 4:16-17; 1Co. 9: 24-27; and Acts 17:11.

Habits

These are the practices and actions that reflect commitment to God. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ." Whatever Christ did—Paul aspired to do the same. We need not ask, "What would Jesus do?" If we read His word, we will know the answer! Paul also encouraged Timothy to "follow his lead" (2 Tim 2:2).

Hands

These are the means by which we carry out the commitments we have made to God. The Preacher provided clear direction with regard to the use of our hands, (Ecc. 9:10). James, the renowned book on Practical Christianity, delineates a faith that must work in order to be pleasing to God (Jas. 2:14-20). And Paul weighs in on the matter by encouraging the Christians in Rome to not "lag behind in diligence and be fervent in the spirit" (Rom. 12:11).

Once these connections have been made, we are ready to unleash a full assault on anyone or anything that would impede our service, love, and commitment to God and our families.