

# *Transformed!*

How God Renews the Lives  
of His People

## *Get Personal*

### Part 6: *Why You Should WANT to Be Transformed*

#### A Note from Pastor Keith...

If you've trusted Christ as your Savior, some amazing things have happened: You have been declared righteous, set free from spiritual bondage, and provided a new source for a transformed life. The question now is, "What are you going to do with all this?" For many the answer is, "Not a thing." Jesus spoke of those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" (Matthew 5:6); but the truth is, most of us haven't put ourselves in that group. Sure we'd like to be different, but *selectively* and on *our terms*. (After all, let's not get carried away here....) This week we're looking at why each of us should be setting our sights higher than that—a *lot higher!*

#### *Title: Why You Should WANT to Be Transformed*

Q: "If grace just keeps on coming, why shouldn't I just keep on sinning?"

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

Romans 6:1 (all references are NIV)

A: Because God is offering you...

## *SO MUCH MORE!*

Sorry for yelling, but this stuff is *really* important.

1. God is offering you New Life.

<sup>2</sup>By no means! We died to sin; how can [shall] we live in it any longer?

<sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death **in order that**, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.**

Romans 6:2-4

2. God is offering you New Freedom.

<sup>5</sup>If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with [rendered powerless], **that we should no longer be slaves to sin—**

<sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:5-7

#### *Get Personal!*

What's the difference between simply being forgiven and being transformed?

Why do so many of us decide NOT to pursue transformation? List as many reasons as you can.

### 3. God is offering you **New Impact**.

<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup>Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and **offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness**. <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 6:8-14

Q: “If I’m not under law—whatever *that* means—why should I bother to pursue godliness?”

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?

Romans 6:15a

A: The alternative is ***more slavery!***

1. Each day we choose slavery...to sin or to holiness.

<sup>15b</sup>By no means! <sup>16</sup>**Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey**—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. <sup>18</sup>You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. <sup>19b</sup>Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

Romans 6:15b-18, 19b

2. When we choose sin we reap a living death.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup>**What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!**

Romans 6:19b-21

3. When we choose holiness we reap *true life*.

<sup>22</sup>But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, **the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life**. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:19b-23

### Conclusion

<sup>19</sup>“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

<sup>20</sup>You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20a (New Living Translation)

Next Week: *Why We Still Struggle...and What to Do About It*

### *Get Personal!*

When we decide NOT to pursue transformation, what good things are we missing out on?

How has the choice of sin led to spiritual bondage? What choices have you made that have taken on a life of their own, that have ended up dominating you in ways you never intended?

How has the choice to be transformed paid off in your life? What growth and victory have you experienced?