



## HCF Core Values Spiritual Transformation

**Spiritual Transformation** - We value personal holiness. Becoming like Christ is chief among our pursuits and *spiritual transformation* is something we continually strive for so that we take on the character and likeness of Christ in our thoughts, words and deeds. True saving faith in Christ brings about an obedience to God's commandments which powerfully changes our lives. Bearing the fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives is our humble desire. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in sanctification and our cooperation with Him is at the forefront of our worship. Humility and forbearing love are values of importance in our relation to God and to one another.

**We value personal holiness. Becoming like Christ is chief among our pursuits and spiritual transformation is something we continually strive for so that we take on the character and likeness of Christ in our thoughts, words and deeds.** – Because we value Christ above every other thing in creation, and because we see Him to be most excellent and worthy of all praise, we seek to become like Him. In fact, this is God's great desire for us as Christians as well. Paul travails expressing God's desire in....

**Galatians 4:19** - 19 My children, with whom I am again in labor **until Christ is formed in you**  
NASB

One of *the purposes of God in salvation is for us as Christians to be conformed to the image of Christ*. That our character, our thoughts, our words and our deeds would become like those of God's Glorious Son, and our Savior, Jesus Christ. This then, is paramount for us as Christians.

**Romans 8:29** - 29 For whom He foreknew, **He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; NASB

Therefore **WE VALUE THE PURSUIT OF PERSONAL HOLINESS**, that is, to take on the very holiness of Christ in ourselves, to become like Him. *We seek to love like He loves, and to be patient like Him and gentle like Him, and to hate sin with the same passion that He does*. As Christians, this is what we strive for continually as we seek to glorify God and worship Him acceptably with our lives.

**Colossians 1:27-29** - 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.** 29 And **for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power**, which mightily works within me. NASB

The scripture tells us that we have been made new in Christ and that now we are to take on His mind, His holiness, His words, His actions, and even His attitudes.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** - 17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, **he is a new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. NASB

**Ephesians 4:20-24** - 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, **21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus**, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of

deceit, 23 and **that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.**  
NASB

**Ephesians 4:32-5:2** - 32 And be **kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other,** just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. 5:1 Therefore **be imitators of God,** as beloved children; 2 and **walk in love, just as Christ also loved you,** and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. NASB

Therefore we value the pursuit of Christ's likeness in our lives. This is chief among our pursuits together as His body, His family, His people. Its time we grew up, that we are no longer like infants, but rather become mature, godly people who think, act and speak like Christ.

**1 Peter 4:3-6** - 3 **For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles,** having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4 And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you; 5 but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, **they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.** NASB

**True saving faith in Christ brings about an obedience to God's commandments which powerfully changes our lives.** – When we think about the relationship between faith and obedience, consider the words of Jesus' brother James,

**James 2:14** - 14 What use is it, my brethren, if a man **says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?** NASB

Of course the answer is **“no,” such a faith cannot save him.** Well James goes on to tell us exactly that, that faith without the works is “dead.”

**James 2:17-20** - 17 Even so **faith, if it has no works, is dead,** being by itself. 18 But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." 19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, **that faith without works is useless?** NASB

Although it is true that in Christ we have been justified - (declared righteous), and also that God is the One who continues to sanctify us by His Spirit, nevertheless we are commanded to pursue righteousness and holiness in our conduct. ***We are admonished again and again to be holy and to purify ourselves by remaining in repentance.*** This is the **PRACTICAL** aspect of salvation. We are to pursue Christ in our behavior and to bring honor to His name by our holy and righteous conduct.

**2 Corinthians 7:1** - 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.** NASB

**Leviticus 20:26** - 26 **Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy;** and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine. NASB

**1 John 3:3** - 3 And **everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself,** just as He is pure. NASB

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-8** - 3 For **this is the will of God, your sanctification;** that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. 7 **For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.** 8 Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. NASB

**WE VALUE THE PURSUIT OF PURITY** because it is evidence that true saving faith exists. We are not to live in a manner as to invite compromise, rather we are to pursue holiness

and purity. *The one who walks in darkness and sin profanes the name of Christ and proves himself a sinner rather than a child of God.* Those who have been born of God (regenerate), walk in obedience to Christ. The New Testament clearly teaches that true saving faith gives evidence of itself through word and deed. We have been made holy by the sacrifice of Christ, it is therefore God's will that we be sanctified in our behavior displaying the good work He has done in our hearts by our ready and willing obedience to His commands.

**1 John 1:6** - 6 If we **say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie** and do not practice the truth; NASB

**1 John 3:9-10** - 9 **No one who is born of God practices sin**, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 **By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious**: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. NASB

**Romans 8:12-15** - 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; **but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** 14 **For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** NASB

Therefore WE VALUE OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMANDMENTS and as a corporate body of Christ and seek to help one another to do exactly that. We seek to help one another obey the commandments of God and continually strive together for this purpose. *We therefore admonish one another to "put to death" whatever belongs to our sinful nature (the old self).* The old self (our former state of depravity) is to be put off continually. The sin of the self-will, which we denounced upon receiving Christ, is now to be forsaken and repented of moment by moment in our daily life. The New Testament clarifies specifically what these sins of the self-will are and exhorts us to put them to death.

**Romans 6:12-15** - 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, 13 and **do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness**; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For **sin shall not be master over you**, for you are not under law, but under grace. NASB

**Galatians 5:19-21** - 19 Now **the deeds of the flesh are evident**, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you **that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.** NASB

**Colossians 3:5-9** - 5 Therefore **consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.** 6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, **put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.** 9 **Do not lie to one another**, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, NASB

If we have put the old self to death, we have only come halfway. Christ is calling us to *"put on the new self"*, which is like Christ in every way. *We are to allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us and willingly obey His voice moment by moment as we "walk in the Spirit."* Having put aside the sins of the self-will, we now live and act in the righteousness of Christ. The New Testament also clearly defines what this righteousness practically looks like in our behavior.

**Colossians 3:10, 12-13** - 10 and have **put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him** 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;** 13 **bearing with one another, and forgiving each other**, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. NASB