



HCF Core Values

Spiritual Transformation – Part 2

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.

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. – The ability to be like Christ is in no way something that we have the power to bring about in ourselves, but rather is worked by God in us through Jesus Christ and by His Spirit. This is why the scripture calls the character of God which is produced in us, *“the fruit of the Spirit.”*

Galatians 5:22-23 - 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB
Philippians 1:9-11 - 9 And this I pray, **that your love may abound** still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having **been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God. NASB

“A good tree” said Jesus, *“bears good fruit”*(Matt 7:17). It is by this bearing of good fruit that those around us will see Christ abiding in us. ***Indeed it is Christ's purpose that others will see Him in us as His character is born in our life through our willing obedience.*** When others around us see our kindness and love, our gentleness and respect, our submission and peace, they will see Christ in us. This, Jesus says, **glorifies God.**

John 15:8 - 8 **“By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit,** and so prove to be My disciples. NASB

Matthew 5:16 - 16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.** NASB

We value producing the fruit of God's Spirit in our lives because ***this glorifies God(the purpose for which we were made) and displays Him to world around us.*** In fact, Jesus says, if we abide in Him we WILL bear much fruit.

John 15:5 - 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; **he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit;** for apart from Me you can do nothing. NASB

John the Baptist preached, ***“bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”*** We are to live and act in such a way that this fruit of God's Spirit is produced in our life. This happens as we willingly surrender to His guidance and lordship moment by moment in our daily life, continually walking in repentance from the sins of our daily lives. This is actually one of

the very reasons why the Spirit dwells in us. That is, to sanctify us or to make us holy even as He is holy.

Philippians 1:6 - 6 For I am confident of this very thing, **that He who began a good work in you will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus. NASB

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 - 23 Now may **the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 **Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.** NASB

Therefore we value cooperation with the Holy Spirit's work in us to sanctify us and make us like Jesus so that we take on His very character ourselves. This is an imperative matter in the body of Christ. If we ever hope to be conformed to the image and likeness of Christ, we must desire to humbly submit to the will of God and forsake the sins of self so that we can produce the powerful fruit of God's Spirit and thus glorify God in maximum degree.

Ephesians 4:1-3 - 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 **with all humility and gentleness**, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. NASB

Humility and forbearing love are values of importance in our relation to God and to one another. - In order for the image and likeness of Christ to be produced in us, we must exercise the Christian virtue of Humility. There must be surrender and submission first to the will of God and secondly to others around us.

1 Peter 5:5-6 - 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, **clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** 6 **Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of** God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, NASB

Philippians 2:3-4 - 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself**; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. NASB

This is why we call bearing the fruit of the Spirit a "*humble desire.*" This is because we have surrendered our worldly sinful self-will to the heavenly self-less will of God and therefore are vessels prepared to bear the fruit of God's Spirit. ***Only a humble Christian can bear the fruits of patience and kindness, joy and peace, love and faithfulness, compassion and goodness.*** Proud people simply cannot produce these fruits because they come from God and are gifts of His grace. God is opposed to the proud and does not impart these sweet fruits to them. Pride is focused on self. Self-will, self-exaltation, self-righteousness, and self-reliance are all manifestations of a proud heart which is not humbly submitted to the will of God. This God detests and disdains.

Proverbs 16:5 - 5 **Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD**; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished. NASB

Consider for a moment the sin of pride.....it can be defined as.....

Pride – to esteem oneself more highly than others and therefore view others with contempt, a high estimate of self, a focus on self and the service of self, a pursuit of self-recognition and self-exaltation, and a desire to control others and circumstances for selfish purposes

Self-Exaltation – To lift oneself up, to estimate oneself higher than others, to be conceited, to scoff at others, to be haughty

Proverbs 21:24 - 24 "**Proud," "Haughty," "Scoffer," are his names, Who acts with insolent pride**. NASB

Luke 18:14 - "for **everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled**, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted." NASB

Self-will – to live by the dictates of your own will, to do what you want apart from God's will, to oppose God and His commandments

Isaiah 14:12-14 - 2 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, **'I will** ascend to heaven; **I will** raise my throne above the stars of God, And **I will** sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 **'I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High.' NASB

Self-righteousness – to consider oneself righteous in God's sight because of your own good works, to consider oneself as better than others, to view others with contempt

Isaiah 65:5 - 5 "Who say, 'Keep to yourself, **do not come near me, For I am holier than you!**' These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day. NASB

Self-reliance – to rely on oneself, to live by your own strength, to face trials and temptations without trust in God and His sovereignty,

Isaiah 30:33 - **Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, And trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong,** But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD! NASB

Here is something we can rest assured of, God is opposed to the proud and He is sure to humble them.

Proverbs 8:13 - 13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; **Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.** NASB

Daniel 4:1-37 - 37 "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and **He is able to humble those who walk in pride.**" NASB

Proverbs 29:23 - 23 **A man's pride will bring him low,** But a humble spirit will obtain honor. NASB

But God honors humble people and fills their lives with His good grace.

Psalms 25:8-9 - 8 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way. 9 **He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.** NASB

Proverbs 22:4 - 4 The **reward of humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life.** NASB

Isaiah 57:15 - 15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And **also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.** NASB

Proverbs 22:4 - 4 The **reward of humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life.** NASB

The commitment of forbearing love is something that should live at the core of our Christian relationships. We are a family, bound together by the blood of Christ. What shall separate us from one another? Consider what the scripture says about this matter...

Romans 12:10 - **10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;** NASB

To what degree shall we be devoted to one another? Until we have a disagreement or say something offensive to one another? Until someone misunderstands us and mistakes us for saying something critical and hurtful? Would you divorce your wife or disown your brother for saying something offensive? Than why will we separate from our Christian brothers for such minor offenses as these? Where is the forbearing love, and patience and

humility? This is why the scripture says we must regard others as “*more important than ourselves.*”

Philippians 2:3-4 - 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself**; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. NASB

We are to be devoted to one another, stuck together, bound to one another for the glory of God and for the sake of Jesus our great Lord who gave His life for us!

1 Peter 1:22 - 22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, **fervently love one another from the heart**, NASB

We are to prefer one another, to give preference to one another in honor. Now you can't do this truly until you honor one another. This is the attitude which should permeate the Christian life, that we honor one another for the glory of God and the sake of Christ.

Therefore we must put on a humble spirit and seek to love one another deeply from the heart and pursue the benefit of those around us.

1 Peter 3:8-9 - 8 To sum up, **let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit**; 9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. NASB