

TRANSFORMATION

Dear Friend:

I recently read a question that made me stop and think. If a seeking person came to you and asked how your life as a Christian differs from the life of a moral non-Christian, what would you tell them?" Don't miss a very important part of this question: "A moral non-Christian". A moral non-Christian who is not cheating on their spouse or cheating their employer. One who is working hard and doing a good job of raising their family and perhaps even volunteers to help special needs children or a local food pantry. How does your life as a Christian differ?

Some Christians may say: "Well, my marriage has had some rough times, but I did not quit". Chances are, the moral non-Christian may say the same thing. Another Christian may respond: "When my mother died it was rough, but I had the peace that she was going to heaven". The moral non-Christian may say the same thing, if he believes in God but has not yet committed his life to Jesus. Let me phrase the question a bit differently. How should your life as a Christian differ from the moral non-Christian? One word: Transformation. Read the Gospels slowly, listen to the testimony of Paul also in the book of Acts and his Epistles. Everyone who met and accepted Jesus as Lord was transformed. Transformed from the inside out.

Jesus transformed so many people that Mark 7:25 says: "He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence a secret." How does Jesus transform us? First, he transforms our soul. Ephesians 2:1 says: "As for you, you were dead in your trespasses and sins." At conversion our soul is transformed from going to hell to going to heaven. Next, our heart is transformed. Your first love becomes God, your family and friends become second and third. Also, your heart should be set on "things above" not on things below (earth) (Colossians 3:1). What else should make us different from the moral non-Christian? Our highest source for life's questions: God! Finding the answers through prayer and God's Word. A Christian should have the desire to see non-Christians converted to Christ. Non-Christians never have thoughts like: "I want to share my faith and how to accept Christ with others." Transformation, that's the difference between a Christian and a moral non-Christian. May you and I live transformed lives!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Gabe Smith (cancer), Ratliff Family (death of Christine), Barb Pittenger (shut-in)