**The Transformed Life** (A Synopsis)

***9****Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.****10****Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.****11****Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,[*[*g*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rom+12&version=ESV#fen-ESV-28241g)*] serve the Lord.****12****Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.****13****Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

***14****Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.****15****Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.****16****Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.[*[*h*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rom+12&version=ESV#fen-ESV-28246h)*] Never be wise in your own sight.****17****Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.****18****If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.****19****Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rom+12&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-28249i" \o "See footnote i)] to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”****20****To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”****21****Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:9-21, ESV)*

 The life that is transformed through Jesus is changed by God’s love and lead by it. Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters in the Lord as we look today on this Graduation Sunday at the call of God our Father for transformation in Christ. The term itself speaks of a metamorphosis – a complete systemic change within us that makes us totally different people, ones who stand out, even when they are not trying to do so in a society that has become watered down in Christ, for those that still call themselves Christians. We’re talking today about both the life that is changed internally as well as changed in its external lifestyle and deeds. These are our two main topics today, and I pray that they will be a great reminder and perhaps even a call to examine ourselves and to look at whether our lives match up with this important aspect of what our lives are supposed to look like as followers of Jesus Christ.

 First, we need to establish that God changes us through His love. This is obviously done through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, purchasing our salvation, and giving us the opportunity, upon accepting the sacrifice, to also receive the blessing of a resurrected spiritual life. Such a life experiences great change. Changes in beliefs and convictions begin to take place. Desires begin to be transformed, and objects of focus change. As this happens, though the physical makeup of the person remains the same, their entire presentation as to who they are begins to reflect not their old self, but their new, resurrected, rebuilt self in Jesus Christ. That is the first step in the call to transformation in Christ…

 For example, when one is focused on their career, and spends most of their time thinking and working on it and within it, this aspect begins to rule over all other things in their life. If their focus was something else, like family or a hobby, that object of focus would become the ruling entity in their thought and even spiritual life. You can see the importance of the change of focus that needs to happen as we walk in the Lord…

 When it comes to each of us, the passage ought to bring up questions within our souls: are we genuinely loving? What do we hold fast to? Do we love one another and seek to honor one another more than ourselves? How fervent are we in spirit? Are we rejoicing, patient, and constant in prayer? Many of these qualities come from internal transformation due to allowing God’s love in Jesus to take over.

 Second, God’s love through Jesus also changes our deeds. There are many categories that are mentioned in the passage that show us an overarching love that covers the full range of human experience. Whether it’s relationships between people, the relationship with God, whether it’s dealing with the works of the Enemy, or whether it’s about right attitude and thought life that leads to right fruit externally, God’s love doesn’t just change people internally, but causes a change in their external life because of that internal change.

 For example, in the book of James, we see the interplay between faith and works. It is important for us, who pride ourselves on having the correct doctrine, to express the latter thru our Christ centered deeds.

 In conclusion, let us remember that a life that is transformed through Jesus is changed by God’s love and lead by it. It’s all about internal change as well as a corresponding change in external deeds and overall lifestyle. The Lord Bless You All, Amen.