

TRUSTING GOD FOR A CHANGE #4

“Clay People”

I beseech you...brethren...be not *conformed* to this world: but be...*transformed* by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove (the) good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
Excerpted from Romans 12: 1-2 KJV

I. The Quest for Change

- A. The deep, inner transformational change we seek comes only from God.
- B. We DO have a part to play in the responsibility of proper positioning.
- C. Today, we want to see:

- Change is inevitable
- Change happens *to* us not *by* us
- Change has two (and only two) objects

II. Change Happens to Us (Not by Us)

- A. Change *happens* to us.

“be not conformed to this world...but...be transformed...”
Romans 12:2

1. We are *objects* of forces that change
2. We are not *doing* change, we are *being* changed

- B. Our changes are taking us one of two directions:

1. We are *being conformed* to this world
2. We are *being transformed* into the image of Christ (Also see Romans 8:28-30)

- C. There are two external forces competing as “change agents” acting upon our lives.

III. Title of Today’s Message: “Clay People”

- A. God formed man from the “dust of the ground”.

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man *became* a living soul.”
Genesis 2:7 KJV

B. We are “*clay people*.”

I...am formed out of the clay.
Job 33:6 KJV

But now, O Lord...we are the clay...we all are the work of Your hand.
Isaiah 64:8 KJV

C. Characteristics of clay:

- It is subject to change
- It is conformable
- Change occurs from power outside of itself

IV. Impossibility of Neutrality

A. We Were Created to Be Changed

1. Paul is telling the Romans that conformity to the world can only be overcome by *intentional* re-positioning our lives.
2. There are two external forces competing for conformity: the spirit of the world and the Spirit of God. (1 John 2:15-17)
3. Neutrality is impossible. We will be conformed to *something*!
4. Doing nothing is the same as being conformed to the world because the world all around us is designed to conform us to itself!
5. Like the clay, we are influenced by forces around us, and we respond to them in the same way the clay responds to the “potter’s” hand.

B. The Alternative

1. The only option to being changed or “conformed” to this world, is to be changed or “transformed” into the image of Christ. (Discussed earlier by Paul in Romans 8:28-30)
2. This option only comes through the “renewal of the mind!”

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Excerpted from Romans 12: 1-2 KJV

3. Conformity with the world requires nothing, but to be transformed into Christ-likeness requires the renewing of the mind!

C. Change is Determined by What Shapes our *Thinking*

1. The battlefield is the mind.

For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.
Proverbs 23:7 NKJV

...what he thinks is what he really is.
Proverbs 23:7 GNT

2. Check out this translation:

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but *let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think*. Then you will learn to know God's will for you...
Romans 12:2 NLT

3. Now we've come all the way back to our base text for the series:

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV

III. We Become What We Behold

A. Choose Your Focus-Choose Your Change

1. God made us of clay, impressionable, conformable, ready for change.
2. The change occurs based on what "impresses" us, our minds and thinking, then our choices and our decisions.
3. Non-change is impossible. The only issue is what kind of change is going on!

B. What Am I Becoming?

1. The world and the word both have the power of change.
2. What we are giving most attention to is what we will become.

**Change won't come by self effort or good intentions...
Change comes from positioning ourselves in Christ and with God on every
issue of life!**