
Transformational Change: God's Vision for Change

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, January 22, 2017*

Bad Change Is Easy – I Just Go with the Flow

“Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” **Romans 12:2, TEV**

If I Do Not Fight Against the Conforming Power of The World,
I Become Like the World

The Church Is Full of People Who Have Been Conformed to a Pattern of Religious Behavior but Not Transformed by the Holy Spirit of God

I Need a Vision of Change

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” **Romans 8:29, ESV**

God Wants Me to Be Conformed to The Image of His Son

“God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.” **Romans 8:29, MSG**

Living A Good Life Is NOT a Life That Looks Like Jesus

What Would Being Conformed to The Image of Christ Look Like?

1. The Good News is That God is Already at Work in Me

“And we all... are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18, ESV

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” *Philippians 1:6, NLT*

2. I Pick Up My Cross and Follow Him

“Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples.” *Luke 14:26–27, GNB*

3. I Seek God with An All-Consuming Passion

“Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.” *Matthew 6:33, GNB*

4. I Put God and Others Before Me, My Desires and Schedule

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’” *Matthew 22:36–39, GNB*

It's Not Love Until It Costs You

5. I Seek to Love Righteousness and Hate Wickedness

“You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness...” *Hebrews 1:9, ESV*

2 Words Describe What God Wants to See in Me:

Holiness

Sanctification

6. I See My Life's Purpose to Do God's Will

“For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will.” *John 6:38, NLT*

The Only Way I Can Have This Kind of Heart Is:

Total Dependency Upon God