

September, 2011

A Change of Perspective

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.
Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if
anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!*

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

We are often amazed at the changes that occur in the lives of people who come to faith. They become better fathers and mothers, husbands and wives. They increasingly focus mind and heart on spiritual matters. They read the Bible and pray—they are different people. But let's make it personal.

We know that God's Spirit changes us into his likeness when he has his way with us, and yet we are still awed by that transformation, even in our own lives. Those changes are not self-reformation. We made the decision (faith, repentance, and baptism), but the power for transformation is from God. God honors the direction we choose with the power to live and be victorious in that direction. The changes are not our doing so much as they demonstrate God's work in our lives.

As converted people, we no longer see things from a human perspective, but from God's perspective. People, events, and priorities are all viewed in light of God's will and glory. Our understanding of the world is God-centered, rather than man-centered. We come to know that His glory, rather than our happiness, is the real goal of life. For most of us, that turns life upside down (actually, right side up!).

We grow up seeking happiness in comfort, pleasures, our life's work, and in relationships. Our culture promotes that search at every turn: by peer pressure, advertising, and in much of our education and training.

God's Word calls us to reverse that direction—to seek first his kingdom (his rule and will over our lives), to seek his glory, believing that all we need and desire will be added to us. Happiness is a result, not a goal. That reversal of direction and thought patterns may be the greatest transformation a believer experiences. All of life—at home, at work, and in the church—is different when we are truly new people who want nothing more than to see as God sees and to bring glory to his name.

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