

INTRODUCTION

(v1-2) "I beseech you" - this is not a pleasantry; it's urging, exhorting, a call to action.

"Do not be conformed to this world" - don't adopt attitudes and actions taking you away from God.

"But be transformed" - a change in you; converted; (1 Peter 4:3-4) "... they think it strange that you do not run with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you."

(v14 - 18) 5 MORE BIBLICAL TRAITS OF A "TRANSFORMED" LIFE

1. (v14) "Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse"

A "transformed" life will experience persecution:

(2 Timothy 3:12) "live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution"

(John 15:18-19) "If the world hates you ... because you are not of the world ..."

(Matthew 10:16) "... sheep in the midst of wolves ..."

"Bless those" - will be an unexpected response to the persecutors.

2. (v15) "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep"

"With those" - go and be near; involve yourself; get beside them and speak.

3. (v16) "Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own eyes"

"Same mind" - we do not want to have respect of persons in our fellowship.

(Romans 2:11; James 1:1-4, v9)

"High things" - don't have ridiculous pride; snooty; haughty.

(James 4:6; Proverbs 16:18)

"Associate" - lets all get together; do not isolate another; (John 13:34).

"Not wise in your own eyes" - it's stupid conceit; egotism.

4. (v17) "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men"

"Evil for evil" - don't you do wrong in trying to repay; (Matthew 7:12; 1 Peter 2:21-23).

"Good things in the sight of all men" - (2 Corinthians 8:21); walk the talk.

5. (v18) "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men"

"If it is possible" - it won't always be possible at the moment.

"As much as depends on you" - I can put forth my best effort, but I cannot govern the participation of another in the peace process.

"Live peaceably with all men" - I'm trying! It's not me, it's them.