

LoveCanTransform

ME- Recently, I have been thinking a lot about transformation, I think it is because I seem to be experiencing a lot of it in my life.

1. Marriage
2. Adapting to a new role at church
3. Learning to manage other church staff
4. The real value of a dollar
5. New understanding of God's Grace

WE- I'd be willing to bet that many of you have experienced transformation in your life as well.

1. Marriage
2. Kids
3. Career Changes
4. Illnesses / Health
5. Family transition

It's impossible to go through life without experiencing **transformation**. The Question is, "What motivates us to transform?"

GOD- The bible teaches that transformation is part of the human experience; in fact it even teaches us that transformation is a **requirement** for experiencing God's love in life. However, how that's transformation happens may surprise us. Let's take a look at our passage for today.

Luke 7 – The Woman Caught in Sin

- Similar Stories Appear in all four gospels, but are probably two separate instances
- Jesus has been invited over to a religious leaders house for dinner.
- A woman enters the public gathering and cleans Jesus' feet
- Pharisee comments on her social status and how she shouldn't be touching Jesus
- Jesus responds to him with a parable. – Forgive Much / Love Much; Forgive Little /Love Little
- Jesus then declares the woman's sins have been forgiven because of her Faith not just her display of love.
- *The woman displayed a tremendous amount of Self Awareness, Courage, and Faith.*

Am I saying that unless you change, God **does not** love you? No, I am not. I'm saying that without a change, you'll never **experience** his love in its **fullest** sense.

God loves you just the way you are, but he also loves you too much to leave you that way.

- Carl Lentz, Pastor Hillsong NYC

Christian Transformation Processes

Salvation- deliverance from the power and effects of sin

Sanctification- the state of growing in divine grace as a result of Christian commitment after baptism or conversion.

From this passage we once again learn that transformation is not simply a process where we become a “better person” or try to live a “better life.” Transformation is about embracing God's unconditional love and allowing his grace to move us to a place where

1. we no longer fear examining our life
2. we no longer believe lies about our own inadequacy
3. we commit to a life long faith centered journey

YOU-

When you find yourself confronted with a potential transformational opportunity, ask yourself “How can I respond with **Honesty**, **Courage**, and **Faith**?”

- Honesty Requires **Self Examination**
- Courage Requires the **Shedding of Lies**
- Faith Requires an **Extended Commitment**

“Justification is the new creation of the new man, and sanctification his preservation until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Cost of Discipleship

WE- Think about how our community would be **transformed** by the Love of Christ if we all lived with **Honesty**, **Courage**, and **Faith**.

- It's not about the supremacy of the Christian Life, it about the opportunity found in a Christian Life.
- It's about valuing honesty with ourselves and others
- Embracing the courage it takes to show up and admit we have work to do
- Celebrating the Faith it takes to Commit to the transforming life Christ offers

Think about how these attitudes might influence our church? Think about how this might influence the people that come into contact with our church? Think about the individuals and families that could find healing here because we commit to helping others experience Life Transformation instead of just a worship service . . . This is the potential **impact** of God's Love.