

Whose Inscription Does Your Heart Carry?

I. Christian's have purpose and responsibility.

A. Render unto Caesar. Matthew 22:15-22

B. God's puts His seal upon us.

1. II Cor. 1:21, 22

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

C. We are to bear the name of Christ.

1. II Cor. 2:14-16

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life."

D. Be a transformer not a conformer.

1. Romans 12:2

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--- his good, pleasing and perfect will."

II. Malnourished Christians have trouble transforming

A. We need to make a decision to stop being babies.

1. I Cor. 3:1-3

"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly---mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly, for since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?"

B. Lack of discipline leads to "spiritual flabbiness" and then we have trouble transforming because we haven't been connected to God, our source of power.

1. I Cor. 9: 24-27

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

2. Hebrews 12:11

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

C. Self loathing and guilt keep us from transformation, so forgive yourself.

1. II Cor. 7:10

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”

2. Hebrews 10:22

“...Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us of a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

D. Ultimately, we don't believe God.

1. Titus 3:4-7

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

2. Romans 8:35, 37-39

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?”

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

III. God is waiting on us.

A. II Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

B. Philippians 3:13, 14

“Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it (perfection), but one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

C. II Timothy 2:15

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”