

HERE'S A QUESTION: "What does your life prove?"

e.g. Crime doesn't pay Money doesn't buy happiness. The guy who dies with the most toys doesn't actually win. Really really wanting something doesn't mean that you'll get it. You don't always get what you want! Beauty is only skin-deep. When you've got your health, you don't necessarily have everything

A QUESTION: "What does your life prove?" (Or, "What will it prove when it is over?" And, Are you all right with this?)

How about this? (Words spoken at your funeral... By one of your kids?)

"His life proves that living God's way: that is, living in deliberate, intelligent obedience to the Law of God, is the good and acceptable and perfect way to live."

What if your life proved THAT? And your kids and your family and your friends and your colleagues all saw that and believed it in part because your life proved it, and they said so ?

REQUIRED: **THREE STEPS TOWARDS A LIFE THAT PROVES THAT GOD'S WAY OF LIVING IS THE BEST WAY**

REVIEW:

1st Acknowledge God's ownership of your life and commit yourself to obeying him!

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Besides that? It's not an overstatement to say, "*Other than that, it's all in your mind!*"

2nd (THE NEGATIVE PART) *Avoid being shaped* by "the world"

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world...

"Conformed" means shaped or moulded from external pressure.

The way we make things out of Play-dough or Silly Putty or Plasticine.

There are forces at work in the world that mean to make something of you. And we who acknowledge God's ownership of us, and are committed to living in obedience to Him are under orders to resist this external pressure.

e.g. ? **Regarding your sexuality:** Your capacity to experience sexual pleasure is not for your use but for your spouses!

1 Corinthians 7:4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

Regarding your money: Your money is not all yours. The first portion --- 10% -- is for the work of the Lord. The rest is to pay for your responsibilities. It's **NOT** to be looked at as **a source of security or joy** and it's **NOT** to be looked at as **yours in any sort of absolute way**.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

ALSO, regarding your time, your ambitions, your relationships...

NOTICE: *It's the mind that Paul has in mind.*

Because HOW WE THINK is what gets us started into every aspect of life.

So he is saying, "You've got to think differently than many of the people around you. You have to think counter-culturally!"

3rd (THE POSITIVE PART) Be inwardly changed by a new mindset

Romans 12:2 ...be transformed by the renewing of your mind

"Transformed" means shaped from the inside. "metamorphosis" [We say "morphed"]

But from the inside, the way **yeast shapes bread**

Or the way **a caterpillar becomes a butterfly**

Or the way **Peter Parker became Spiderman**, except for the part about the spider bite.

Except that it sort of **IS** like that → it was an outside influence, the venom of a radioactive spider, that set up the mechanism that made the change happen

→ And here it is **outside influences**, two in fact, that **make the change take place.**

AND WHAT CHANGE EXACTLY? THE RESULT: A life that proves that God's way is *good and acceptable and perfect!*

Romans 12:2 ...so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Just one of many ways to speak of it:

Philippians 3:12 ...I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:28 We proclaim [Christ], admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

THE ONE THING REMAINING... **How do we do it?**

Romans 12:2 ...be transformed *by the renewing of your mind*

→ And here it is **outside influences**, two in fact, that **make the change take place.**

→ **And the outside influences are "the Spirit and the Word"**

Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment...

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

James 1:21-25 ... if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ...

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

A QUESTION: "What will it prove when it is over?" if you keep living the way you are living these days? And are you all right with this?