

A man in a light-colored suit jacket and black shirt is looking upwards and to the right. In the background, a modern building with a glass facade and a grid pattern is visible. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor or evening setting.

Transformation:

from **MACRO** to

Micro

by Buck Jacobs

*"And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind, that you may prove what is that good
and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

Transformation is an exciting word for those of us who are called to a leadership role. To transform is to change something from what is, to something different. It speaks of process and progression. In the positive sense it would be to improve or make better—a concept vital to the leader’s role in an organization.

Of course, there is the negative sense as well. There can be a negative or a deteriorative process with transformation. Often our role as leader requires us to arrest the negative in order to institute the positive. Both forms are descriptive of change and require discernment to understand what is and relate that to what should be.

In Biblical terms the words “be transformed” used in Romans 12:2, are used in the form of the verb that is directing continuous action and the words could be translated “to be being transformed” or a continuing and continual process.

Many leaders and business owners have found that meeting with other, like-minded leaders in a format that encourages open discussion and accountability is extremely helpful in both personal and corporate transformation. Sixteen years ago we started a for-profit business called The C12 Group, LLC to provide just such a regular forum. We organize Christian leaders into groups of 12 to 16 CEO/owners who meet for a full day once each month to study biblical principles applied to real business subjects, to discuss the use and potential in their business for business as ministry and to share counsel and advice. These groups challenge and encourage one another to build great companies for a greater purpose.

Enhanced Business Results

The group members pray for one another and hold each other accountable for commitments that they make to apply what they are learning or that God may be prompting them to move forward on. Each month the group focuses on one member who presents his business to the group as though making an annual report to a board of directors. The group

gives input that is not tainted by financial interest or concern. Member companies have not only experienced enhanced business results but have seen genuine Christian ministry happen in and through the business relationships that they would never have imagined possible. Corporate cultures have been changed from the focused pursuit of materialistic values to the creation of a cultures built on Christian core values that put people before profit and, while not in any way ignoring or being exempt from the need to compete or to provide value, do so in a way that is both/and rather than either/or.

One member started a non-profit foundation to help its employees further their education or their children’s and commits a portion of the annual profit to fund the foundation.

Many have offered biblically-based counseling on finance, marriage, and parenting to their employees and vendors. Some have engaged corporate chaplains to serve their team with great benefit to the employees and their families. For the 70% or more of Americans who are unchurched, having a chaplain available in a time of need is an invaluable employee assistance benefit.

In a study on the long term benefit to its members, the C12 Group found that of the 16 who had been members for 10 or more years, their businesses outperformed three to one a comparable study group of 350 leading US businesses in top and bottom line performance.¹ Two of the leaders had recorded more than 250 receiving Christ among employees, vendors, customers, and other associates that they related with in the normal course of business during

the study period. All had experienced significant impact in their ministry applications and giving.

The application of biblical teaching and the narrow way in and for life were never intended to be confined to within the four walls of the church building on Sunday and Wednesday night. On the contrary, they are intended to be



24/7 operating principles for all of life, including business.

The opportunity and potential to be a light shining in the darkness for the Christian business leader, CEO/owner has never been greater. The Kingdom and its values must be demonstrated, not just talked about, and there is no greater vehicle than business with its multiple and complex relationships and limitless opportunities for application to show that the Kingdom can be a living reality.

In every nation business leaders have great potential for influence. We have what is called positional respect. Others respect us because of the titles that we have such as president, CEO, owner, etc. Whether such respect is deserved or not, it is there. In a nation such as America where a majority of the population (60%) claim to be Christians, if the leaders were to express and expose Kingdom values consistently in and through their lives in business (as well as in their other roles and other realms such as education, politics, entertainment, etc.), the nation would be in the process of being transformed.

In nations where Christians are a minority, the process would take longer perhaps but the principle applies across all borders. God exempts no nation from His ultimate authority. This is the macro view of transformation.

The micro view of being transformed can be found in just two verses of scripture:

Luke 17:21, "For indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you," and Colossians 1:27, "the mystery of the gospel is Christ in you the hope of glory." The Kingdom is not out there somewhere; it exists within, in our hearts. The hope for the transformation of the Earth and ultimately the presentation of the Kingdom prior to the return of Christ lies in the potential for and progressive transformation of the heart of every believer. It is not enough to just be born again to effect this transformation, although until new birth we cannot be transformed in this sense. But new birth through faith in Jesus Christ, is like stepping into the starting blocks of the race for transformation that is set before us. From the moment of new birth until the moment of our physical death or the return of Christ, whichever happens first, our primary role is to be in the process of being transformed as ever more effective ambassadors for Christ by progressively learning to allow Him to live through us into the circle of influence that He provides for us. This is true for every, and any role or place and for every man, woman and child who is born into the Kingdom and privileged to live on earth as a son or daughter of God.

In the micro view our lives are transformed and conformed to the image of Christ through a progressive intimacy with God and a growing awareness of and knowledge of His ways and will for us. There are two fundamental requirements for success in our roles.

First, we must desire success as God defines it and on His terms. We are not to be conformed to this world and its definitions of success or choice of process. God does not negotiate with us in a job interview-like process. He had a plan for our lives before He created the Earth (Ephesians 2:10) and nothing less is His will and nothing less fully engages His power. Consider this: "The eyes of the Lord runs (or searches) to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong (or mighty) on behalf of those whose heart is loyal (wholly His) to Him" (II Chron. 16:9, NKJ). God longs to show His love and power through the lives of those who are loyal to Him. To be loyal to God is to say "Yes Lord" to His plan and then to execute it with His guidance and help moment by moment,

day by day, year after year for all of our lives. Our ultimate success as individuals will be judged on how well we understand and perform within His plan. Apart from intimacy with Him we have little or, in reality, no chance to succeed on His terms.

Next, in our contemporary time the emphasis of the Church, for the most part, has been on salvation, which of course is the most important message expressing the greatest gift ever given to mankind. But, after coming into the knowledge of Christ, the most important need of the believer is to be able to hear God's voice and then to obey it—information and execution. Hearing God's voice and knowing His will are the fundamentals of a disciple's life. Obeying God's voice is the way of transformation from flesh-driven to fruitful and faithful living.

"When man listens, God speaks.
When man obeys, God acts.
When God acts, men change.
When men change, nations change."

- Anonymous

Building our relationship of intimacy with God requires focused attention. It will not happen without intentional effort to shut out all other voices and concentration on hearing His voice. Our lives are constantly bombarded with other voices, our world has become a din of conflicting messages. When Elijah sought God he could not find Him in the whirlwind, the earthquake, or in the thunder, God spoke to Elijah then (I Kings 11-13) as He speaks to us now, in a still small voice, the voice within (Luke 17:21, Colossians 1:27, Galatians 2:20).

Therefore, a formula for successful, personal transformation would include intentional, private time with God in His Word and prayer (speaking and listening), as well as the application of His Word.

So, the question is are you, or are you not willing to be being transformed? In the most micro sense this is the root and hope for world transformation. It can only happen as individuals answer "Yes Lord" to that question. If the Judeo-Christian witness were to be taken completely out of the world it would soon degenerate

into a hellish and selfish survival of the fittest, nihilistic, existential place unfit for God or man. Yet, we have not been removed from the struggle to transform the earth. Rather, we are the frontline in the process.

God will not force us to choose Him and His way in life; we must be volunteers. But to those who choose to walk with Him in His transformation process, His promises are breath-taking, peace in life's storms, joy in the battle, love unconditional and unlimited.

There are three options: be conformed to the world, be being transformed to the image of Christ, or try to fit in between. The first leads to failure and frustration and the last leads to being lukewarm. Only the second choice leads to abundant life. Which are you choosing? Note that not to choose is a choice in itself.

Our statement of purpose for the C12 Group is: "To change the world by bringing forth the Kingdom of God in the marketplace through the companies and lives and of those that He gives businesses to run for Him." If we are successful, transformation will occur through thousands of men and women who, like you, hear His voice and press on in the role He has given them. It is a great plan that the Father has shared with us and a privilege to be given an important part to play.

Notes: 1. The Business Roundtable.

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