

God's Plan for Surrender: What Efforts to Make for Needed Renewal

I. (Conference Scripture) Romans 12:1:

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

II. (My Scripture Reference) Colossians 3: 12–14:

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

III. Why is surrender so difficult to do?

- a. We are not “wired” to give up, concede, or let something go.
- b. It feels like losing rather than winning.
- c. Retreats or recalibrations seem like failures.
- d. We do not keep our identity in Christ on the forefront of our minds well enough.

IV. Why is transformation needed in our lives today?

- a. A lack of healthy models has created significant gaps in knowledge and wisdom.
- b. “Things” control us rather than us controlling them (i.e., technology and work).
- c. Pain begets more pain unless it is addressed.
- d. Everything in life seems to pull apart against the need for connectedness.

V. The ingredients for renewal are already described for us:

- a. Compassion
- b. Kindness
- c. Humility
- d. Gentleness
- e. Patience

VI. The application efforts are laid out as well:

- a. Bear with one another.
- b. Forgive one another.

- c. Pursue Jesus' example with one another.
- d. Love one another.

VII. Now - how to really do it:

- a. Redefine your image of manhood to include compassion.
- b. Improve your ability to sense the room around you.
- c. Do not overestimate your strength and underestimate your circumstances.
- d. Learn how to bring the "right emotion to bear at the right time."
- e. Increase your ability for self-control of your tongue.

VIII. We all need "another" around us:

- a. Connectedness shares burdens, stress, and wisdom
- b. Treating others as we are treated releases us from consuming emotions.
- c. We all fall short on our own but fall less short with the aid of others.
- d. Love needs a foundation that is seen, experienced, taught, and preserved.

IX. The outcomes of these efforts on our own health are tangible:

- a. Personal coping is anchored in wisdom not foolishness.
- b. Less likely to experience guilt, regret, shame, and anger.
- c. More energy to pour into the things that we are passionate about in life.

X. The primary relationships around us are more accessible and reciprocating:

- a. Partners feel more worthy, valuable, and cherished.
- b. Children maintain their openness to direction, support, and communication.
- c. Day to day interactions seem lighter despite the pressures staying the same.

XI. Social connections are more sustainable, fulfilling, and longer lasting:

- a. Transparency in conversations grows to meaningful levels.
- b. Support in the stressors of life and hope for the future are ground better.
- c. Men who go through hard times together stand firm and stay connected.