

## **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.**

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**III. Why is surrender so difficult to do?**

- a. We are not “wired” to give up, concede, or to easily let something go.
- b. It feels like losing rather than winning.
- c. Retreats, recalibrations, and new directions seem like failures.

**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 leads to more pain via compensation until it is addressed.

**V. The ingredients for renewal are already described for us in the Colossians passage:**

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

**VI. The application efforts are laid out there 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: To pursue change in how you love others:**

- a. Improve your ability to see, understand, and engage the people around you.
- b. Learn how to bring the “right emotion to bear at the right time.”
- c. Increase your ability for self-control of your tongue.

**VIII. We all need “another” around us to aid us in renewal:**

- a. Connectedness shares burdens, stress, and wisdom
  - b. We all fall short on our own but fall less short with the aid of others.
  - c. Love needs a foundation that is seen, experienced, taught, and preserved.
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**IX. The outcomes of these efforts on our own well-being 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 enthusiastic about in life.

**X. The primary relationships around us are more responsive and robust:**

- 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 grounded better.
  - c. Men who go through hard times together stand firm and stay connected.
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**XII. Final Key Question: What identity do you choose to have?**

- a. Cling to the self-directed status quo option or the renewed, God-directed one?