

Subject: Tertiary Ministries - Tools for Transformation  
and Moral Renewal

Title: Social Reform – It's Theology and Life Application

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Text: Selected

Introduction:

- ✓ Before we get into the finer details of our discussion, I think it would be wise of us to position our subject by defining 2 controlling words, namely transformation and moral renewal.

A. Transformation: *Metamorphoo (Greek)* To change in to another form, to undergo a complete change, a change that happens from the inside. We get our English word metamorphosis from here which the encyclopedia says is the change/transformation which occurs in the form of many lower animals i.e. Butterfly – Goes from egg, larva, pupa, caterpillar – then finally it becomes a butterfly. In our discussion it will mean noticeable or radical change, a change in disposition, heart and character.

B. Moral Renewal: Restoration, Rejuvenation, Reinforcement, Re - supply, Replacement, Revival of natural and acquired traits that makes up a person's character, be it in private or public. Reordering of qualities re: different dimensions of a person's life relating to credible conduct.

*In what spheres are Transformation and Moral Renewal suppose to take place?*

- ❑ Personally: By the grace of God we can know God individually and accomplish his way, will and wonders in our lives by reconciling thru the power of Jesus Christ.
- ❑ **Ecclesiastically: As a body of believers (ecumenically/universally/regionally/locally we can experience the tangible manifestation of God in church affairs.**
- ❑ **Civil – Socially: As a society we can know God and accomplish his way, will and wonders in our civil and social relationships.**
  
- ❑ Government is a gift of God for the orderly function and procedures of man in a fallen world. All government is ordained by God. The political arena is an area of service – Xtians over the years have surrendered and misunderstood this sphere of ministry. For they think government is secular.
- ❑ All government is from God, for God and under God. We embrace the idea of church and state being separate, but we do not believe the state is secular. (Rom. 13:1-4; 1 Tim.4: 1- 4)
- ❑ The Lords desire is that Government develops a constitution, policies and an ethos with programs and practices that will reflect the glory of God.
- ❑ Our Government currently as a matter of interest has the 4th best constitution in the world and our currency is ranked 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ❑ **However, we do recognize ungodly and rebellious governments. (Notice this form of government is not God's Perfect Will for mankind but He allows it (Permissive Will).**

- ✓ A fair judgment on our government would be that it is neither ungodly nor rebellious (in the sense that it does not have on its agenda a deliberate and willful action against the principles of scripture) there are certain aspects in their governing that needs serious attention.
- God's heart is to see the betterment of society: In the OT this highlighted in the following verses – Ex. 20:1-4; Deut. 6:10 –12; Eccl. 5:8; Isa. 1:16, Isa. 58:3-5,9; Ex.23; in the NT – the following scriptures attest thereto – Eph. 6: 5-7 (Market Place Ethics) Matt. 5:13 –16
  - ✓ God's law of instruction for holy living is designed as to regulate all of society in a way that promotes godliness in personal, spiritual, and civil matters. The laws of God fall into three categories:
    1. Moral laws: instructions concerning godly living. (Person)
    2. Ceremonial laws: instructions concerning godly worship. (Practice)
    3. Civil laws: instructions concerning godly judgement. (Peoplehood)
  - This laws are recorded in Ex. 20 and 23 and in various parts in the book of Leviticus. This categorising of laws is then affirmed in the NT in a new context and its application is somewhat different but the principle as outlined in the OT is in fact, see passages such as (Phil. 4:8, Rom. 13: 8-14 – 1 Cor. 11 –14; Heb. 10:25 – Jam. 2:15 –16, 1:27) The bible does state categorically that Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.

Now you might be saying sir you have indeed said a lot but what are the Tools for Transformation and Moral Renewal and the role the Tertiary Ministry has to play.

***Tool 1: There Needs To Be A Vision For Transformation and Moral Renewal.***  
(Prov. 29:18 “ Where there is no vision the people perish” [KJV])

- Our sense of humanity needs to be expanded. We need to have a vision to see the church not as a mystery cult, nor as a monastic movement, nor as a philosophical party, but as a community for witness and service, a church for God and a church for others not only ministering to their spiritual need but their social need as well.
- Why do the church and tertiary ministries in particular require a vision – The answer is simple so that we as a ministry don't sell ourselves short (we can make a sure difference).

***This vision that we are casting needs to be written down.***

(Hab. 2: 1-4 “I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected. <sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said: “Write the vision And make *it* plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.<sup>3</sup>For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” NKJV)

1. Look Upward – Hear from Him what's on the Agenda.
3. Look Outward – Circumstances society finds itself in.
4. Look Inward – Develop, Equip and Empower ourselves for the task at hand.
5. Look Forward – Prepare, plan the way ahead.

Vision: Series of pictures or events in the mind of a person or people. An ideal aspiration or ambition. A beautiful thing. A state of mind with proper perception of reality. Objective. Desire placed in the heart by God. Plan orchestrated in heaven and illuminated in the mind. Meaning placed in the heart. Dream imbedded in the inner being. Goal. Strong sense of doing something significant.

William Carey – Said: Expect great things from God and Attempt great things for God. Let me say this man of God was Underfunded (No Sponsorship), Uneducated (Was a shoemaker by trade) Underestimated (They did not believe in him) Unattractive (Balded prematurely) As someone once said look as far as you can see when you get there you'll see more – Dream big. Our vision at all times needs to be dynamic and progressive.

*Certain things about divine visions:*

- Are always connected to God's word and purposes.
- Are an extension of Gifts and Talents.
- Are more apt to be received in love than in condemnation and negativity.
- Will always be blessed with God's favor and grace.
- Usually comes to the obedient and hardworking.
- Must be selectively shared.

*This vision we casting needs to draw on at least three major ethical theories:*

Utilitarian View: We need to envision the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.

Deontological View: We need to uphold the Moral principle at stake.

Virtue View: We need to display a vision that is in congruence with the community of faith – the church in general and tertiary ministries in specific.

When looking at these views the church must not look at a false disjunctive – creating an either or mentality but must embrace an all inclusive approach.

*Tool 2 There Needs To Be Deliberation For Transformation and Moral Renewal.*

- ❖ The church must not fear entering the public debate arena. The church for centuries was mainly concerned with biblical topics in doing so they missed the reality of everyday life. Answering questions that no one was asking. In simpler terms in divers ways the church was irrelevant. I personally believe that the church has turned the corner, and has become relevant to the challenges we face in the world today.
- ❖ One of the reasons why I love the church and theology so much, is for the following two reasons: 1) It is conversation with different fields – Business & Public Sector, NGO & NPO, Health Sciences, Justice, Education, Media, Welfare to name but a few. 2) It draws different fields together. (It serves as a bridge builder to various fields.)
- ❖ Tertiary Ministries should see itself as a crucial point of reference, since it has within it's framework academicians – with the ability to do magnificent research, philosophical - critical and practical thinkers. Engineers – who can assist with the implementation plans. It's

got ardent and experienced members qualified in Law, Psychology, Science, Statistics, Economy, Political Studies etc. that can assist as the ministry tackles projects and introduces programs that will uplift individuals and society. It is multi – cultural by nature and this should be used to our advantage.

- ❖ Tertiary Ministries must identify and do its homework regarding departments/fields in society that needs urgent attention. They must then interact, analyse, synthesise, constructively criticise the issue at stake. In doing so they need to fashion a moral perspective on the given subject and invite the party concerned to the table.
- ❖ In their deliberation they must call the respective field to accountability, proposing well-argued and documented strategies in countering the dilemma in a participative manner building good lasting relationships for future generations, not neglecting the present one.

### *Tool 3 There Needs To Be Action for Transformation and Moral Renewal.*

#### A. Define the Problem

A clarification of what it is that requires a moral decision is the 1<sup>st</sup> task. (Genetic Engineering, Organ Transplant, Capital Punishment, Ancestral Worship at School etc.)

#### B. Analysis of the Situation

Investigation of the “Real Context”

#### C. Behavioral Options

#### D. Making a Decision

#### E. Go out and implementing the Decision.

### Conclusion:

Vision – Observation - How we view situations and challenges and our intended response.

Deliberation – Interpretation. - How we understand things and communicating our stance in a descriptive, demonstrative, informative and persuasive manner.

Action – Application - How we implement our decision.