

The Correspondent



SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Let's Be Reasonable

- Jason Wright

In order to live faithful, Christian lives, Paul teaches it is reasonable to not compromise, let the scriptures transform us and prove what is good by following God's will and not our own. (Romans 12:1-2)

To be reasonable is to do something that makes sense; is not extreme or excessive; something that is fair, logical, sensible, or rational. For example, if I backed into your car and offered my apologies and showed you my insurance card and you said, *just pay me \$10,000 and we can forget this ever happened*. I might respond with, *how about we call the police and let them file a report and then we can turn this into our insurance*. Which one of these responses seems reasonable? How about...look both ways before you cross the road; dress up for a job interview; compliment your wife's cooking; don't drink and drive. These all make sense and are rational.

Paul emphasizes his sound advice by saying, *I beg you brethren*; listen to what I am going to say. Romans 12:1...*Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God*. We also have recorded for us that Paul practiced what he preached...II Corinthians 11:22-29. Here, he lists many of the sufferings he endured for the preaching of the Gospel. He teaches in Ephesians 4:25-26 that we become new and put away things such as lying. Did you know by the age of 4, 90% of children have learned the concept of lying, and Americans tell an average of 11 lies per week.

Peter reminds us in I Peter 4:3-4, that part of our daily sacrifice is NOT living like the world and involves dying to self and not doing what we used to do. When we put God first, family and friends may object...Luke 14:26. Paul also uses words like be not conformed, be transformed, and prove what is good. Romans 12:2...*Be not conformed*, means we do not follow the pattern of the world or anything outside of the Biblical pattern; imitate Christ (I Cor. 11:1). Where does the Lord's church and His work fit into your life? Does your life value worldly or spiritual things? (I John 2:15-16/Col. 3:2/Eph 4:29). Do not compromise!!

Be transformed by those things that are pure, like God's Word (Phil. 4:8) Once in darkness, now we are children of light...Eph. 5:8. We *prove what is good and acceptable* by following the Word of God. In doing so, it transforms us into servants of Christ. We also prove ourselves before God by not following the world. We live in it; we do not serve it! We must have the attitude of Christ—thy will be done. Learn it and do it!

It is reasonable for us to live holy and acceptable lives before God. In doing so, we never compromise; we let the scriptures transform us, and we put God's will above our own. Does this describe your life?

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