



## SECTION III – LESSON #14

**SUMMARY:**

This lesson examines the nature of godly transformation, asking the question: How do we change? In so doing, the lesson explores the relationship between the change of our inner being and our external practices.

**MAIN LESSON IDEAS:**

- The need for transformation; the depth of needed transformation; and the methodology of transformation for both individuals and corporations is the issue for man on the earth.
- Truth is revealed to us in God relationally and leads us into conceptual reality, executional process, and the context of community life.
- Co-laboring together in God brings man and God, and man and man, into deepest fellowship.
- Transformation, which is the game, begins in our internal reality (spirit›heart›will›mind› actions) and extends outwardly to our environment.

# Transformation Begins with You

## by Dennis Peacocke

- I. In a fallen world, transformation is the only serious issue.
  - A. God has given us the mandate of transformation/dominion (Gen. 1:26-28).
    1. Our God has given us the task, in working partnership with Him, of bringing the earth to completion.
    2. The word “cosmos” (world, created order) is related to the word “komeo” which means to cultivate or tend. Man is called to tend God’s creation.
    3. Because fallenness has brought a measure of corruption to the “garden,” man, in Christ, must transcend that corruption – beginning with himself – and bring that transforming power to the cosmos (Read Rom. 8:17).
    4. In order to bring in and carry that transformation to the marketplace, we must fully use God’s “tools” of transformation: (1) our standing before God in Christ, (2) our relationship with the Holy Spirit, (3) God’s Word, (4) the corrective input of the brethren, and (5) the “feedback” of God’s laws of sowing and reaping.

- B. Even fallen man naturally attempts to order the community of man. He is a negative agent of transformation.
1. Cain built a city (Gen. 4:17) and inaugurated the world system of structuring. That "city" has a highly structured economic system which the scripture calls "Babylon" (confusion) (Rev. 18).
  2. Abraham and his seed were also "looking for that city whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10), and this city represents the Kingdom of God. The purpose of the *Business Leadership School* is to help further reveal the nature of that Kingdom and its economic values and structures.
  3. These two cities, "seeds" (Gen. 3:15), "kingdoms" (Col. 1:13), and crops "in the field" (Matt. 13:38) are in an irreconcilable battle over who owns the earth and how to bring transformation to it.
    - a. You will be battling your own unbelief concerning the validity and applicability of God's system.
    - b. You will certainly be battling the world's opinion of "Kingdom economics."
- C. Our calling in the management of people and resources (business/economics) is to achieve that transformation God's way, in His time, and according to His will.
1. Christian business is about "living and doing" before God, not "secular success." "Success" or "profit" should be the fruit of our labor, not its goal.
  2. In an increasingly technological world economy, the ability to execute successful transformation is essential to survival. Conceptual economics recognizes this, and much of your study materials reflect this reality.
    - **This is why biblical transformation is the key to genuine marketplace adaptability.**

## II. The scope of this school operates from this theological gridwork.

- A. There are three interrelated realms of reality, and their relationship is a picture of the Trinity and the way God has structured reality.
1. Truth is from God and relationship to Him. "Facts" exist, but they are only intelligible as God explains them to those with whom He is in a discipling relationship. Conventional economics neither understands nor acknowledges this.
  2. Reality begins in relationship to God, with thoughts or *concepts* that God uses to bring order to reality; and with an *executorial* dimension in terms of how His disciples are to practice those concepts.
  3. Ray Sutton has developed and published a very helpful "Five Point Covenant

Theology” in his book, *That You May Prosper*.

- B. These three overlapping realms of reality are, in fact, the way we all live our lives and conduct business, which is why it is our model.
1. Since the focus of our studies deals with business/economics, we must always approach the way we do business from this three-realmed perspective.
  2. These, then, are the right questions to ask to experience true change:
    - a. Lord, how do You see this issue?
    - b. Where can I find further input on it in the scriptures?
    - c. What worldly unreality and sin must I repent from in order to execute this truth?
    - d. Lord, please take me through the discipling process of correctly applying this truth.
- III. “Doing Business God’s Way,” as you remember, is a business partnership between man and God as God brings His Kingdom to earth, in and through man.
- A. It is while laboring together with people in biblical relationship that we come into the possibility of deepest fellowship with them (Matt. 11:28-30; Jer. 6:16).
1. This co-laboring law follows the biblical principle of, “It takes one to know one” (Ps. 18:25,26).
  2. Let us further explore this truth relative to the work of fathers, mothers, pastors, teachers, and students.
  3. In order to begin to truly know someone or have them begin to know us, we must be in a co-laboring situation with them. This is what biblical “fellowship” means, more than simply being in meetings together.
- B. Each generation is expected by God to transfer that partnership to the next generation as a loving trust between them (Mal. 4:4-6).
1. In order to build generationally in a family, church, business, or organization, you must get the next generation building on the same wall with you (Nehemiah).
  2. The issue of passing the baton biblically is *the key* to new growth in any business enterprise. New products and sales only generate more “people problems.”
- IV. We address “Thirty-Nine Master Principles of Transformation” in this core course.
- A. Change begins in the inner realm of our internal being because that is where integrity

begins, as modeled in God Himself.

1. God's integrity is founded on the fact that He calls us to become what He already is. God never asks us to do anything He has not already done Himself. This is why Jesus became a human being (Heb. 2).
  2. We do export/impart what we are. Consider the measles/mumps example.
  3. *Therefore, we must be in the transformation we are advocating* (Principle #4).
  4. People don't change (management) if we aren't changed.
- B. Examine the first four propositions of relational reality (being) in terms of how we can experience real personal transformation and see it come into our organizational (business) lives as well.
1. *Moving toward transformation is moving toward God* (Transformation Principle #1).
    - a. The scripture tells us that in order for God to draw near to us, we must first draw near to Him (James 4:8).
    - b. Because Father is discipling us, and using forty plus hours of work to do it at the job site, it pays to stick close to Him!
    - c. God is not changing (Heb. 13:8; Ex. 3:14), but He has called us into eternal transformation as we grow into Christ's nature.
    - d. At work, those who are changing are the ones we are to invest in – if we are wise.
  2. *Biblical change is obedience-oriented rather than fulfillment-oriented* (Transformation Principle #2).
    - a. In the world, we change because it gains us some self-centered benefit.
    - b. In Christ, we seek transformation out of conviction of sin, love of God, care for others, and a love for truth.
    - c. Babylonian economics motivates people out of selfish gain. Therefore, *self remains the ethic of organization*, with the enormous and costly economic management price tag accompanying that ethic. Kingdom business is therefore management efficient.
  3. *God builds relationally, and so must we* (Transformation Principle #3).

- a. God builds with us, out of love, rather than using us as objects in a project. How do you build with people?
- b. Obviously, Babylonian economics is “user friendly,” but still user motivated.
- c. To build relationally we must build like this:

X Project\_\_\_\_\_

Relationally\_\_\_\_\_ X

- 4. *To produce change you must be in the transformation that you are advocating* (Transformation Principle #4).
  - a. As already mentioned, because of the law of impartation, we tend to produce what we are (Gen. 1:11,12,21,24,25).
  - b. If I don't know where I am, how I got here (the steps and process), and how to teach what I am after (self-consciousness), how can I bring this change into someone else's life?
  - c. God does what God is; unfortunately, so do we!