

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

1301 E. Boynton St. • Hamilton • [www.parkheightscoc.com](http://www.parkheightscoc.com)

*Thus Saith the Lord*

## TRANSFORMING

By Jeff Sweeten

It is disturbing when culture sets the trend for what is right or wrong, especially when it flies in the face of divinely revealed definitions. Too often, Christians succumb to the fickle standards of the Church of the Latest Urge, replete with unbiblical activities and speech patterns void of any biblical meaning or authority (1 Peter 4:11), and destined for damnation (Matthew 15:8-9). The problem is usually obvious but in order to follow the lemmings over the cliff, too many would just as soon crash and burn as to go against the flow. A follower of God today cannot “love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the lover of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). We must be unique, separate from the world (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

It would seem to be the case that the uniqueness of Christianity is just too much for some folks to handle. Nevertheless, Paul urged us to think differently, and he encouraged that alternate way of thinking by stating: “*And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” (Romans 12:2). This is theology that goes against the grain!

Notice the plus and minus of spiritual growth in what is right. The negative: do not conform to the world. Longing to be “*like all the nations*” has caused problems for God’s people more than once (1 Samuel 8:20). When the distinction cannot be made between the Christian and cultural claptrap, one needs to rethink his or her relationship with God. The positive: transform yourself. Never be self-satisfied in your present level of spiritual maturity but keep the goal of Christ-like living ever before you (Philippians 3:13-14) – only when you reach sinless perfection you can quit changing for the better (like that’ll ever happen).

In order to become Christ-like, one must be willing to attain and practice the knowledge of actual righteousness and avoid that which is wrong as revealed by God. Christ is our final authority (Matthew 28:18) and it is through Him that we begin and maintain our relationship with God (Romans 6:3-4). This can only happen if we are transforming. A cultural rearrangement of “*rwong*” doesn’t make it right; it’s still just wrong.

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**