



Dear Friends,

I woke up one day a few weeks ago and thought, “I hate my bedroom!” Now before you think I was just being fussy, you have to know the status of our bedroom. We have lived in our current home for 18 years, and during those 18 years our bedroom has only been painted twice, once when we moved in and once during the sponge painting era. Do you get the picture? IT WAS TIME!!

My wonderful husband, sensing my desperation, took up putty and scraper, paint roller and paint, and transformed our dreary and hideous walls into a peaceful haven of restful beauty. I love it!!!

Transformation is a concept we usually enjoy because it carries the idea of positive change. Who doesn't want a new and improved something-or-other? It instills a hope for a better future.

Why then is it so difficult to transform ourselves, to make ourselves “better”? It's because of just that - we think we must **transform ourselves**. Going back to the bedroom story, the walls cannot transform themselves. Neither is the paint able to transform the walls on its own. It takes a “painter”, a person with the desire to transform the walls, and who has the ability to buy paint and apply it. The walls really do nothing, but present the need to be painted.

We are the walls. We are covered with our old nature, our sinful nature, and have no ability to transform ourselves. God is the transformer, the painter. He covers our sinful nature with Jesus' righteousness. This ability cost Jesus his life, that's the lengths that God went to, in order to transform us. You and I, when we understand and accept what Jesus did for us by dying for our sins, became new creations, new walls, so-to-speak.

2 Corinthians 5:17 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Ephesians 5:25b-27 Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

What I struggle with, though, and perhaps you as well, is living like a new wall in the day-by-day, moment-by-moment, challenges of life. How do my walls stay clean??

Romans 12:2a Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Ephesians 4:21-23 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

John 17:17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

The way to keep my wall clean is to let God teach me his Word and thereby change my thinking and consequently my behavior. Sounds quite simple...

I said earlier that the walls really do nothing, but present the need to be painted. In what ways are you “presenting yourself”, or positioning yourself so that God can teach you his Word? What are your favorite ways or the ways that work best for you? When was the last time God reminded of a Scripture? Was it during a crisis or at the brink of making a decision? Or was it when you were worshiping him in song or talking with a friend? Ask God what you need to know right now and then praise him for using his Word to keep your walls clean.

Blessings from Bev

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