

TRANSFORMERS

By Al Diestelkamp (edited KMG)

If you haven't seen the movie Transformers, you've probably seen the commercials for it; and if you've been around children, you've likely been introduced to the toys that inspired the movie. A Transformer appears to be one thing, but when manipulated, it turns into something completely different.

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome, he urged them to "*be transformed by the renewing of your mind*" {Romans 12:2}. So, in one sense, we should all be transformers.

However, a Christian transformer must be quite different from the toy, which can, at the whim of the child in whose hands it resides, return to its original form. The Christian, after being transformed, must remain a "*new creation*" {2 Corinthians 5:17}—a "*new man*" {Ephesians 4:17-24}. He must not allow the world to manipulate him back into his former self. Our adversary, the devil, seeks to convince us that a little of the "old man" isn't so bad. It isn't necessary to be completely transformed; we just need an overhaul of the worst things in our lives. Such mind manipulation intends to persuade us we should keep one of our feet in the world, therefore, not being truly transformed—just appearing to be.

Church members {I wouldn't call them Christians} who appear to be spiritual and righteous on Sunday, but are worldly during the week, or when they're in different surroundings, are the worst kind of transformers—they're hypocrites. These so-called transformers will never lead others to Christ, will be terrible examples for their families, and cannot bring strength to a local church. They are more likely to hinder the cause of Christ than to further it!

Sadly, so many in the Lord's church seem to be oblivious to the greatest danger they face in the world—seeking to hold on to the world and God. Unfortunately, a divided allegiance will never be accepted by our Lord. Dear reader, have you been transformed, or are you still conforming? *** (Al Diestelkamp) (Edited KMG)**