



**CEO Devotional – March 17, 2014**  
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***Transformation***

I always had a good marriage. I was happy.

Then I attended a retreat of the New Canaan Society in DC. I have heard people talking of transformation before, but in my rigid, Germanic way, I did not think this could/would exist. My learning was that human beings were formed in early years and did not fundamentally change. My new learning altered this opinion, because when the Lord steps in, His Presence alters a person.

Tim Keller spoke about God's relational design for us – that being the eternal Trinitarian relationship. The Trinity is of course made up of three independent Beings who are forever in a perfect, loving, honoring relationship with one another. In God's goodness, He wanted to share this supernatural love and He chose man, first to be in relationship with God and then for man to relate this supernatural love with one another. I was engaged. He spoke about the model of this Trinitarian relationship being established by Him in Eden with Adam and Eve, while relating it also to other points in the Word.

The Great Command to love God with all your heart and soul and then to love others as yourself (Matthew 22:37-40) was the foundation and even the fuel in marriage. Paul's direction in marriage was clear that we are to love our wives like Jesus loved the Church, but these truths somehow resonated differently in me this time. Keller's comments caused a dramatic paradigm shift, although I have read and heard similar thinking before. But it was the first time I internalized it, and I was transformed. Right there and then...changed by God's truth and His Presence.

While I loved my wife and family, I didn't live to honor and serve them. I called my wife and told her that from this day on I have reached a new level of being a husband. My wife accepted the call with tears, but I am sure she was also suspicious that it was a momentary emotional high. However, it was a lasting transformation. Small things that bothered me about her or about our relationship in the past, no longer bothered me. There was a new dimension in me and in our relationship that could only be translated as supernatural, Godly love.

This transformation was of great value to my wife (honoring her at a high level and beyond myself), but it was of even greater value to me because I knew I had become more like Him. Our marriage is excellent....from good to great, as the saying goes. But there is more. The ripple effect transferred into the rest of the family. I sat down my 3 son-in-laws and 4 daughters and retold my experience. It was not only a ministry moment; it impacted my future generations more than any business legacy could. I know this from some of the comments I have received from some of them. God's transformational love in me reflected to them, and they have already changed. Love begets love.

My sermonettes continue as I carry God's message and the experience of His love to others outside of our family. We all have a platform, and I am, in part, using mine to communicate God's heart for excellent love in our relationships with Him and with others.