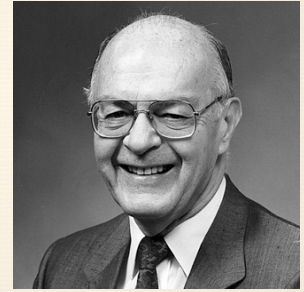


**Everybody wants to  
change the world but  
nobody wants to change.**

**We may be willing to  
change if it is quick, easy,  
and painless.**

“If Jesus came to bring  
change why do the  
church’s  
that bear  
his name  
resist it  
so much?”



Howard Hendrix

*The Apostle Paul’s  
conversion  
is one of the  
most dramatic  
stories of  
change in  
the Bible.*

*His letter  
to the Romans  
reveals his theology of change.*

## Romans

is a message about  
“Lives turned right side up  
from the inside out”

The old SAUL		The new Paul
Jesus was a blasphemer		Jesus was God in the flesh
Gentiles were despised		Gentiles were beloved
Christians were persecuted		Christians were saints
Rome was the enemy		Rome was his destiny
A champion of human merit under the Law		A champion of Jesus’ merit under grace

### *Galatians 1:11-16*

“I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by His grace, was pleased to **reveal His Son in me** so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.”

### *The Gospel that Paul preached*

1.  
**Revealed by Christ**  
(not by man).
2.  
**New**  
(not the Old Covenant law).
3.  
**Christ centered**  
(not philosophical or political).
4.  
**Christ “in me”**  
(not superficial).

### *Romans 1*

"1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, **called** as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, . . . to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake, 6 among whom you also are the **called** of Jesus Christ; 7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, **called** as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

*God takes the initiative in change.*

"called"

God entered our world in  
**Christ Jesus**  
who called us to enter  
God's world.

### *The Christian's callings*

1. All humans are called to respond to the witness of light in creation, conscience, culture, and Christ.
2. God's Spirit calls (empowers) lost people to see and respond to the light.
3. God calls all believers to live holy lives that reflect the image of God in this life.
4. God calls and gifts individuals for specific roles in the Body of Christ.
5. **But how does God call us to bring change to society?**

*Romans addresses change with two objectives in mind.*

1.

### **Personal Peace**

*Personal reconciliation with God  
chapter 1-11*

2.

### **Social Peace**

*Social reconciliation with others  
chapter 12-16*

**PEACE  
SEEKERS**

*perfect peace  
for imperfect people  
in an imperfect world*

**A DANGEROUS BOOK  
JIM ABRAHAMSON**

**PEACE  
MAKERS**

*a path for imperfect  
people making peace  
in an imperfect world*

**JIM ABRAHAMSON  
ANOTHER DANGEROUS BOOK**

### *Four distinctives*

**Absolute righteousness** of a holy God revealed in the Law convicted by the Holy Spirit.

**Self righteousness** of the flesh by us through a superficial conformity to the Law exposed by the Holy Spirit.

**Imputed righteousness** of faith in Christ sealed by the Holy Spirit.

**Imparted righteousness** of obedience through faith empowered by the Holy Spirit.



## The New Testament and Social ethics

**Why does the N.T. not address social injustice issues like - slavery, poverty, gender the way some think it should?**

## Like the Old Covenant

**reform the outer environment with Just laws Stiff penalties Social structures.**



**Change from the inside out is the way of the New Covenant.**

### The outer - behavior

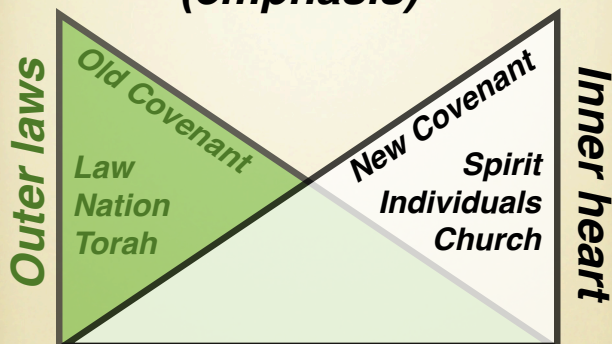


This is where the O.C. gives attention to ethics

This is where the N.C. gives attention to ethics

### The inner - heart

## Biblical social ethics (emphasis)



The key to fruit is in the connection of the vine to the branch not the leaf.

*John 15:1-11*  
Abide in Me,  
and you will bear much fruit.

*Matthew 21:19*

“And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it, and found **nothing on it except leaves only**; and He said to it, “No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you.” And at once the fig tree withered.”

*James 4:1*

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source **your pleasures that wage war in your members?**.”

*Mark 7:14*

“there is nothing outside the man which going into him can defile him; but **the things which proceed out of the man** are what defile the man.”

*Romans 8*

“<sup>3</sup> For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**”

*The stumbling stones of the Gospel*

**Jesus**  
**(not a social ethic)**  
**is the way**

**The Word of the Cross**  
**(not triumphalism)**  
**is the message**

*The point of this passage:*

**As Paul's life was transformed by the gospel so we should read Romans with the expectation that its truths will transform our lives as well.**

**Real social change is not first external and then internal but rather it is from the inside out.**

**The N.T. aims at changing the heart and through it the life and the culture through the church.**

**Christianity that does not start with the individual, does not start. Christianity than ends with the individual, ends.**