

Is the  
woman in  
this picture  
young or  
old?



Stephen R. Covey

“If you want small changes in your life, work on your attitude. But if you want big and primary changes, work on your paradigm.”

“You can’t change the fruit without changing the root.”

*Matthew 6:22-23*

“The **lamp of the body is the eye**; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.”

*Romans 12:2*

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**What happens  
when a person becomes a Christian?**

- **The believer is reconciled to God** - forgiven of all sin and made holy through identification with Christ.
- **The believer receives the Spirit of Christ** - empowering, encouraging, and teaching the way of God’s Kingdom.
- **The believer sees the world differently - a paradigm (model for viewing and living) shift.**

### ***Secular Humanism***

is defining reality and making decisions as though God did not exist or matter.

### ***The mind of Christ***

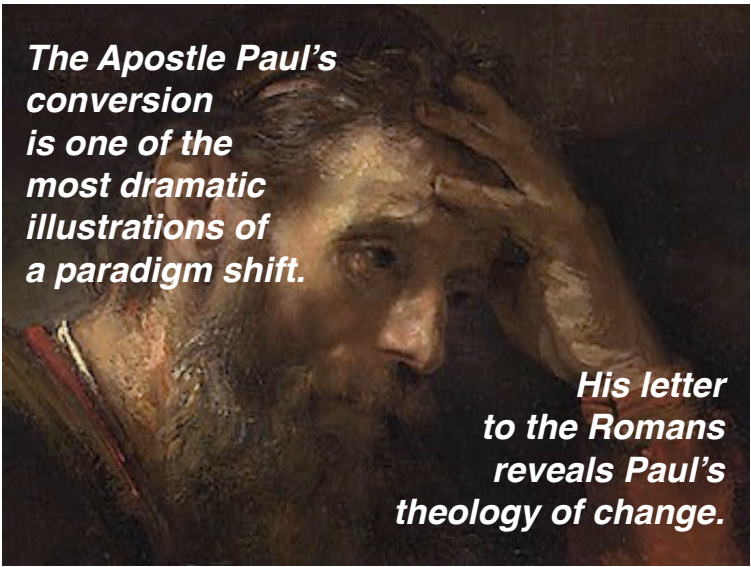
is understanding life as fundamentally a relational experience with God and with His creation.



Stephen R. Covey

“We are not human beings on a spiritual journey. We are spiritual beings on a human journey.”





**The Apostle Paul's conversion is one of the most dramatic illustrations of a paradigm shift.**

**His letter to the Romans reveals Paul's theology of change.**

## **The natural (original) Paul**

- **A despiser of Gentiles**
- **Pride in his personal accomplishments**
- **Passionate in his persecution of the Gospel**

**And then the mind of Christ was installed in him!**

**Romans 15:14-21**

### **Note Paul's attitude toward Gentiles, his own merit, and the Gospel.**

#### **Romans 15**

"14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another. 15 But I have written very boldly to you on some points, so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that my offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

"17 Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God. 18 For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, 19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. 20 And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation; 21 but as it is written, *"They who had no news of Him shall see, And they who have not heard shall understand."* Isaiah 52:15"

#### **Paraphrase**

"14 Even though I have never met you I know the Spirit that is in you has left you fully prepared for service. 15 By the grace of God I spur you on in your Christian walk, 16 so that you will truly be a worthy offering that I can proudly present to God. 17 My boasting before God is in what Christ has done 18 in using me to bring Gentiles to faith 19 with powerful manifestations of the Holy Spirit. I am committed to continue spreading the full gospel, 20 to the untouched Gentiles of the world 21 just as Isaiah prophesied."

### **Paradigm shift #1**

**From seeing Gentiles as unqualified to believers who are fully equipped.**

#### **Romans 15**

"14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another."

- **Paul had never met the saints in Rome but he knew what they had in Christ.**
- **Our challenge - lack of confidence in ministry.**



"15 But I have written very boldly to you on some points, so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that my offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

***Even the lowly Gentiles are a worthy offering in Christ to God.***

- ***These were the despised Gentiles who were unclean in the eye of a Pharisee.***
- ***Paul is now holding them up as his holy offering to God.***

**Paradigm shift #2**

***From pride in himself to pride in Christ's work through him.***

"17 Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God. 18 For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, 19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit;"

- ***He was a steward not an owner.***
- ***Our challenge - territorial ministry.***

**Paradigm shift #3**

***From seeing the world as an obstacle to an opportunity.***

"19 . . . so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. 20 And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation; 21 but as it is written, "They who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand." Isaiah 52:15"

- ***Our challenge - see the world as an opportunity for ministry.***

**Paul challenges three misconceptions**

- ***We are not qualified to minister - We, as the Body of Christ, are first and foremost fully equipped and worthy in Christ.***
- ***We own the rights to OUR ministry - We are stewards of another's flock.***
- ***We are to see the world as a threat more than an opportunity - We need to show our children and friends the grace of God and to do that we need them to see our response to the brokenness of our world.***

**Some of the things that changed in my life through faith in Christ:**

- ***My confidence in ministering went up in spite of my embarrassing missteps.***
- ***My career plans went out the window. My ego was not attached to my ministry.***
- ***I saw the world in a very different way.***
  - ✓ ***It did not scare me or intimidate me.***
  - ✓ ***It was full of learning experiences.***
  - ✓ ***It was full of opportunities to minister.***

***Ephesians 1***

"18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."