



RESURRECTION METAMORPHOSIS - Let the animals teach you (Job 12:7-10)

Our need is for **TRANSFORMATION** not just **EDUCATION** or **REFORMATION**



Metamorphosis is a **MYSTERY**. Science can only tell us **WHAT** happens, but not **HOW & WHY** the process came to exist. It's not a necessary process, since most animals don't do it. Most creatures start as a tiny adult and get bigger. That normal process alone is awe-inspiring as the coded DNA information guides the building of a complex

organism from a single cell, differentiating into types of cells (skin, nerve, etc.) that must develop at *exactly* the right time, position, and rate. **Think about it** - metamorphosis does it **TWICE**. Plus, at the mid-point transition from a larva to an adult - a dangerous, nearly lethal intermission occurs that could never have evolved step by step. The caterpillar builds a **COFFIN** (cocoon) and **DIES**, before it can become **RE-BORN** as a beautiful, totally **NEW CREATION**. Most of the caterpillar cells die (apoptosis) and dissolve into a goopy soup. Then a few special cells called “**IMAGINAL**” cells, switch on dormant DNA coding to recycle the gooey nutrients and construct completely different parts and processes (new brain with pre-programmed software for new feeding and flying, wings, new muscles, nerves, legs, antenna, etc.) It's not a coincidence that *metamorphosis* pictures the process our Creator promised could transform us from selfish “sinners” into the image and character of Christ's pure, unselfish love. The original Greek term in the **NEW TESTAMENT** really is **METAMORPHOSIS** - Romans 12:1-3; 2 Cor 3:15-18. We too, must “die” to our old self-serving life, and be born-again by God's grace. (John 12:23-26 Jesus: “unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth & dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit”)



Please meditate on this quote below by Dr. Warfield professor of theology at Princeton Seminary 1887-1921:
“Christ was led by His love for others into the world, to forget Himself in the needs of others, to sacrifice self once for all upon the altar of sympathy. Self-sacrifice brought Christ into the world. And self-sacrifice will lead us, His followers, not away from but into the midst of men. Wherever men suffer, there will we be to comfort. ... to help. ... Self-sacrifice means not indifference to ... our fellows: it means absorption in them. It means forgetfulness of self in others. It means entering every man's hopes and fears, longings and despairs.... binding ourselves to a thousand souls by the filaments of so loving a sympathy that their lives become ours. It means that all the experiences of men shall smite our souls and shall beat and batter these stubborn hearts of ours into fitness for their heavenly home. It is, after all, the path to the highest possible development, by which alone we can be made truly [human].”

God, our Self-Existent Creator, LOVES you more than any human ever could. (John 3:16; Genesis 1:26-31)



He's the only source of pure unselfish love (Greek = **AGAPE** = a self-**GIVING**, sacrificial love) (**1 John 4:8; Rom 5:5-8**)
He created ALL thinking-feeling creatures (angelic, human, & animals) to receive and share His love with others.
You are designed to be a vessel for the fruit of His love to flow from Him thru you to others. (**John 15:1-15 Vine**)
The purest expression of unselfish love is to sacrifice self to save another – especially an enemy. (**Rom 5:1-10**)
Our **Good Shepherd** promised and proved His love by suffering and sacrificing Himself for you & me. (**John 10**)



Sadly, our sinful SELFISHNESS separates us from Him and from each other. (Proverbs 14:12; Romans 3:23)

It infects our every motive, word, and action with a self-centered desire. (**John 8:31-58**)



It's the root cause of every problem of the heart, of relationships, and even of international conflicts.
We are not just less than our Creator, but infinitely less – especially in our efforts to be “good”. (**Mat 5:48**)
Our human pride believes we can work our way out of sinful selfishness **UP** to be good enough for God.
But **MAN-MADE** “religions” are the **OPPOSITE** of **CHRIST'S** Way, and **FALL** short of His goodness. (**Rom. 3:23**)
“Religions” claim ways “we” can fix our problem of sinful selfishness. But that **NEVER WORKS**. (**Isaiah 59:1-2**)
Sadly, even “**CHRISTIANITY**” has been infected with man's “**TRADITIONS**” that are not the Way of Christ.



The GOOD NEWS is that Christ's WAY is by His GRACE thru our humble FAITH in HIS work, NOT in ours works. (Romans 6:23)

As the incarnate person of Jesus Christ, God our Creator accomplished and offers the **ONLY WAY** for our forgiveness, our rescue, and our transformation (*metamorphosis*) into the image and character of His love. (**Romans 12:1-3; Luke 9:23-26**)
His sinless life of love, self-sacrificing death, & proven resurrection did it all for us. (**John 3:1-21; 8:12-38 & esp. 58; 14:6**)
Our new life must begin with the voluntary re-birth of our **SPIRIT**, becoming born-again, united with His Spirit by faith.
This is what “*saved*” means. The New Testament Greek term is “*sozo*”, means becoming whole, & no longer falling-apart.
Growth continues as our **SOUL** learns to surrender our will to His will, which is sacrificing self for the needs of others.
Soul in Greek is psyche (as in “*psychology*”). By the way, “*psyche*” for soul was the ancient Greek word for **BUTTERFLY**.
The **FINAL** stage of a Christian's **METAMORPHOSIS** will happen at the **RESURRECTION**, when even our **BODY** will be healed and freed from all sinful selfishness and its separation effects: disorder, dysfunction, disease, and death (**1 Cor 15**).
His promised & proven offer is eternal life in His New Creation (Isaiah 11:1-9) TOGETHER FOREVER!

